

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 54-ISSUE 2

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

FEBRUARY 2022



Dear God, thank You  
for LOVING me



UNCONDITIONALLY.



## 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

COME  
WORSHIP  
with us!



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)



GET IN TOUCH

# TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS



## Glorification by God The Father!

The Transfiguration of Christ is the culminating point of His public life, as His Baptism is its starting point, and His Ascension its end.

This dazzling brightness which emanated from His whole Body was produced by an interior shining of His Divinity.

True Judaism, represented by Moses and Elias, the Law and the Prophets, recognized and adored Him, while for the second time God the Father proclaimed Him His only-begotten and well-loved Son.

## STEWARDSHIP-FEBRUARY 2022

### God in Man Made Manifest

The season of Epiphany focuses on how God was made manifest in the flesh of Jesus. The church spends time hearing of the miracles, signs, and wonders of Jesus in the world. And this made plain to all that Jesus really is who He said He was. He is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the only begotten Son of the Father, in the flesh. For "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14).

It is revealed for all the world to see that Jesus is God in the flesh. It is made manifest by His words and His work, by what He said and by what He did. And these belong together, for "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." Jesus is the Word and will of God in the flesh, that is, He is the walking, talking enactment of God's Word.

It is no different for us. We are called not just to believe in God in hearts but also to trust in God in word and deed. As James wrote: "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves" (James 1:22), and again, "What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? ... So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ... Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ... For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead" (James 2:14, 17-18, 26).

Our faith is lived out in works for our neighbor. Our trust in the Word and will of God is lived out not in word only but also in deed and in truth. In other words, the Epiphany of the Lord creates in us an epiphany of our faith in our works of obedience to God who commanded them. By this, our faith is made manifest to the world. It is, as Luther wrote of faith:

Faith is a divine work in us. It changes us and makes us to be born anew of God (John 1). It kills the old Adam and makes altogether different people, in heart and spirit and mind and powers, and it brings with it the Holy Spirit.

Oh, it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. And so it is impossible for it not to do good works incessantly. It does not ask whether there are good works to do, but before the question rises, it has already done them, and is always at the doing of them.

He who does not these works is a faithless man. He gropes and looks about after faith and good works and knows neither what faith is nor what good works are, though he talks and talks, with many words about faith and good works.

Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that a man would stake his life on it a thousand times. This confidence in God's grace and knowledge of it makes men glad and bold and happy in dealing with God and all His creatures. And this is the work of the Holy Spirit in faith. Hence a man is ready and glad, without compulsion, to do good to everyone, to serve everyone, to suffer everything, in love and praise to God, who has shown him this grace.

And thus it is impossible to separate works from faith, quite as impossible as to separate burning and shining from fire. Beware, therefore, of your own false notions and of the idle talkers, who would be wise enough to make decisions about faith and good works, and yet are the greatest fools. (*Preface to the Book of Romans*)

So, then, let our faith be active by God's power in the Word through the Holy Spirit. And let then our faith be made manifest to the world by what this faith does: serving our neighbor – in church, in the family, and society – with the works of faith in time, talents, and treasures.



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



**Bible Study**



9:00 AM

**FEBRUARY 2022  
PARISH VISITOR**

**MARCH 2022 DEADLINE**

[Articles Due](#)

**Friday, February 18th**

[Send Date](#)

**Thursday, February 24th**

**Newsletter**

### MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY

**Worship Committee**

**Church Council**

**Meetings will be announced**

**10th. Thursday at 6:00 PM**



### UPCOMING FEBRUARY 2022 SERVICES

**February 6th, Communion (5th Sunday after the Epiphany)**

**February 13th, Non-Communion (6th Sunday after the Epiphany)**

**February 20th, Communion (7th Sunday after the Epiphany)**

**February 27th, Non-Communion (The Transfiguration of Our Lord)**

**February**



**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

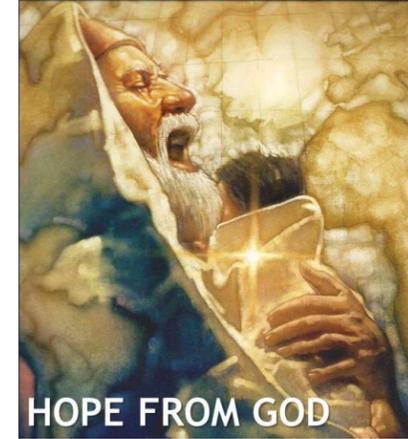
**FEBRUARY 2022**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Adult Choir 6:30 PM	<b>3</b> N. A. Group 6:00 PM	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 5th Sunday after the Epiphany C/ Green	<b>7</b> Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Adult Choir 6:30 PM	<b>10</b> <b>CHURCH COUNCIL</b> 6:00 PM N. A. Group 6:00 PM	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> H.O.B. Board Mtg. 2:30 pm
<b>13</b> 6th Sunday after the Epiphany NC/ Green	<b>14</b> Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am Valentine's Day	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Adult Choir 6:30 PM	<b>17</b> N. A. Group 6:00 PM	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 7th Sunday after the Epiphany C/ Green	<b>21</b> Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am Presidents Day	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Adult Choir 6:30 PM	<b>24</b> N. A. Group 6:00 PM	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> The Transfiguration of Our Lord NC/ White	<b>28</b> Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	<b>LAY READER</b> Jane Abendschoen	<b>USHER</b> Bill Lupp	<b>ALTAR GUILD</b> Lois Stambaugh		

**MARTIN LUTHER'S HYMN: IN PEACE AND JOY I NOW DEPART**

Luther wrote this hymn to put Simeon's words in the form of a hymnic setting. It is a beautiful prayer, that makes for a lovely homily for us to ponder on this day:

In peace and joy I now depart  
 At God's disposing;  
 For full of comfort is my heart,  
 Soft reposing.  
 So the Lord hath promised me,  
 And death is but a slumber.  
 'Tis Christ that wrought this work for me,  
 My faithful Savior,  
 Whom Thou hast made mine eyes to see  
 By Thy favor.  
 Now I know He is my Life,  
 My Help in need and dying.  
 Him Thou hast unto all set forth  
 Their great Salvation  
 And to His kingdom called the earth,  
 Every nation,  
 By Thy dear and wholesome Word,  
 In every place resounding.  
 He is the Hope and saving Light  
 Of lands benighted;  
 By Him are they who dwelt in night  
 Fed and lighted.  
 He is Israel's Praise and Bliss,  
 Their Joy, Reward, and Glory.



“For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light of revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people, Israel.”  
 Luke 2:29-32

## THE PURIFICATION OF MARY AND THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE

This day brings to an end our observation of the great events of Christmas and Epiphany, and appropriately, gives us to ponder a somewhat obscure event in our Lord's life, the occasion of his mother's purification according to Old Testament law and His presentation in the Temple. The beautiful song of Simeon is featured in the readings these days. I encourage you to pay particularly close attention to the lovely Bach Motet based on the words of Simeon, which he composed early in his career for the funeral of the daughter of one of the pastors in Muhlhausen, where Bach was working at the time. The Cantata is titled *God's Time is Always the Best Time*. I've put it in the extended entry, with the performance first, followed by the words in German and English.

The Presentation of Our Lord at the Temple, one of the Christological feasts of the Christian Church, is Scripture's final infancy narrative concerning Jesus. After the Presentation, the Bible says nothing more about Him until His twelfth year.

Many liturgical calendars name this the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, emphasizing its Marian connection. Still another term used is Candlemas, drawing the name from the tradition of blessing the coming year's church candles on this day.

Saint Luke is the only one of the Evangelists to describe the event (see Luke 2:22-40), something likely unfamiliar to most of his Gentile readers. According to the Gospel, Mary and Joseph took the Baby to the Temple in Jerusalem forty days after his birth to consecrate Jesus to God and to complete the ritual purification of Mary, both because of the command of God's Law (Exodus 13:1-2, 11-16; Leviticus 12).

Upon entering the temple, the family encountered the devout and holy Simeon. Luke records that he was promised that "he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. (Luke 2:26)" Simeon took Jesus into his arms, prayed the prayer that would become known as the *Nunc Dimittis*, or Canticle of Simeon, blessed the parents, and prophesied regarding Jesus and Mary.

The prophetess Anna (2:36-38) was also in the temple. She, too, offered prayers and praise to God for sending the Savior.

In the Western liturgical calendar, the Presentation of Our Lord falls on 2 February because this is forty days after Christmas, the celebration of His birth. It is the last festival determined by the date of Christmas and thus shows that the Epiphany season is drawing to a close. Most churches in the East observe the occasion on 14 February since they celebrate Christ's Nativity on 6 January.

### ***We pray:***

Almighty and ever-living God, as Your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple in the substance of our flesh, grant that we may be presented to You with pure and clean hearts; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*



### Bonnie Abendschoen

138 Crown Pointe Drive  
York, PA 17402

### Dawn Frey

382 West North Street  
York, PA 17401

### Joyce Devan

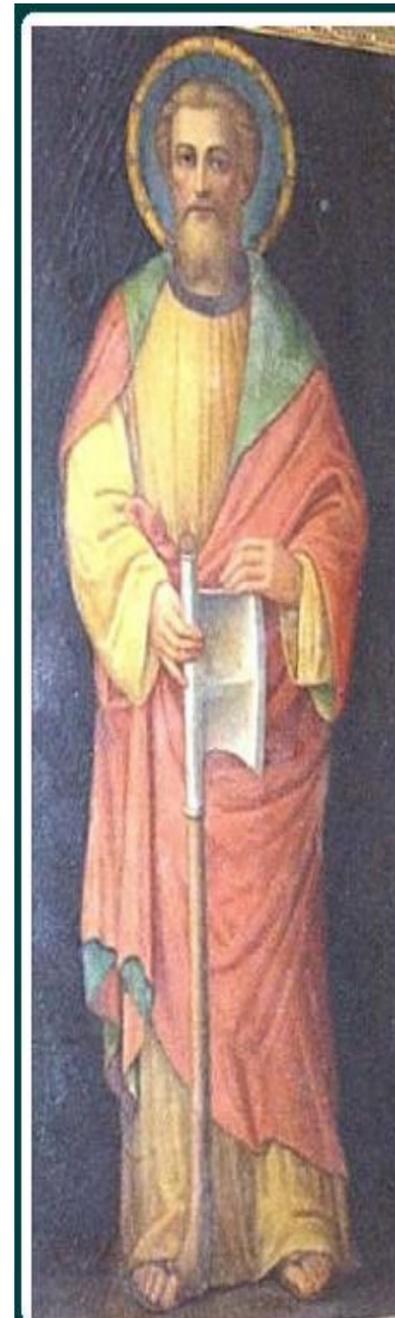
2408 Lovegren Court  
York, PA 17404

### 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.



## St. Matthias, Apostle

(stoned and beheaded in Jerusalem)

1st Century

Therefore, it is necessary that one of the men who accompanied us the whole time the Lord Jesus came and went among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day on which he was taken up from us, become with us a witness to his resurrection ... Then they prayed, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this apostolic ministry..." ... and the lot fell upon Matthias, and he was counted with the eleven apostles.

[Acts 1:21-26]

**LENTEN WORSHIP**

**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.

- March 6
- March 13
- March 20
- March 27
- April 3



**Ash Wednesday**

March 2, 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.

- March 9
- March 16
- March 23
- March 30
- April 6



**HOLY WEEK WORSHIP**

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

**Palm / Passion Sunday**

Sunday, April 10, 11:00 A.M.

**Maundy Thursday**

Thursday, April 14, 7:00 P.M.

**Good Friday**

Friday April 15, 7:00 P.M.

This evening worship will be a choral Tenebrae service. The "Seven Words from the Cross" will be the focus.



*he is risen...*

**EASTER WORSHIP**

**Easter Sunday**

Sunday, April 17, 11:00 A.M.

**German Easter**

**Worship**

Sunday, April 24, 4:00 P.M.

Light refreshments with a German theme will follow the service.



**IN VIEW OF GOD'S MERCY: A Series for the Season of Lent**

Lent is a season when we take a look at our lives in view of God's mercy toward us in the sacrifice of his Son for us on the cross. We, in turn, are called by God, especially during this time of repentance and reflection, to be living sacrifices for him, displaying our devotion to him in word and deed. Jesus helps us to see the richness of God's mercy in his life, death and resurrection. The services in this worship series for Lent by theology professor David Peter focus our eyes of faith on the meaning behind God's mercy made manifest in Christ.

**ASH WEDNESDAY: MERCY IN ASHES**

**WEEK 1: MERCY IN TEMPTATION**

**WEEK 2: MERCY IN SUFFERING**

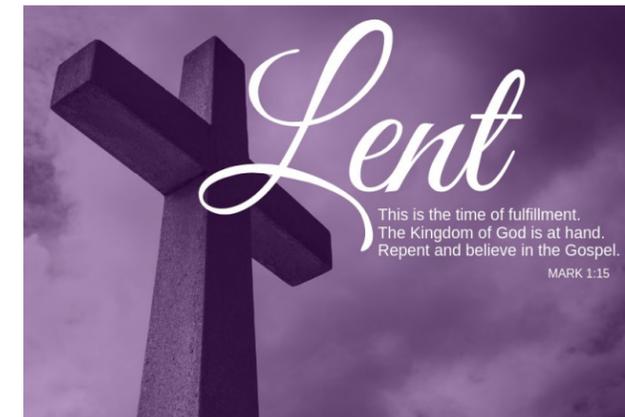
**WEEK 3: MERCY IN BETRAYAL**

**WEEK 4: MERCY IN RELATIONSHIPS**

**WEEK 5: MERCY IN SERVICE**

This year, Saint Paul's and First Saint John's Churches are participating with Saint John and Redeemer Lutheran Churches in a rotation of Pastors for the Mid-week services. Due to that rotation, the above list of focused themes will not follow the order as listed. Each pastor and our vicar will be preaching on only 2 of the themes. Each church will hear all of the sermons, but in a different rotation. Each theme is a "stand alone" so they do not have to follow a precise order.

This will be good as it provides a chance for sister congregations to work together. Hopefully this is just the beginning of more future cooperative ventures.



# Music & Worship Notes



The Epiphany season this year is the longest it can be, seven Sundays long. The last Sunday of Epiphany and of this month, February, is the Transfiguration of our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is definitely a mountain top experience!

We learn a lot about our Lord during Epiphany. The gifts the Magi brought Him and their prophetic importance concerning the baby Jesus. Then the next time we hear about our Lord is when he is twelve years old and is found by His parents in the temple in Jerusalem. Several years pass and we find Him in the Jordan River being baptized by John the Baptist. Then He spends 40 days in the desert, prior to beginning His three-year public ministry.

We hear about His first miracle—turning water into wine. We learn about the men He chooses to be His disciples, common working men and not the elite of the church. Sinners like you and me to bring the Good News of salvation to all the world.

We, FSJ and SP will be joining Saint John and Redeemer to celebrate the Lenten season. The pastors and our vicar will be in rotation to share the message with us. Each of the men will prepare and deliver two of the six messages at each church.

Hopefully this is just the beginning of many more joint ventures between these churches.

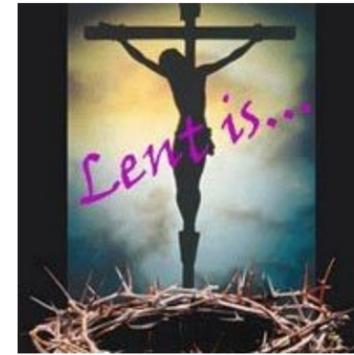
The Alms fund for the first quarter of this year will be for the First Saint John's Assistance Program. The funds collected help our less fortunate neighbors as they come to our church for help.

Thank You to everyone for your generosity last year. We were able to help many people, say thank you to our first responders, and help the LWML in their mission work.

### THE ADULT CHOIR:

**Karen Hildebrand, Lois Hollinger,  
Lois Stambaugh, Dave Stambaugh,  
George Card, Beverly Card,  
Ding Wang.**

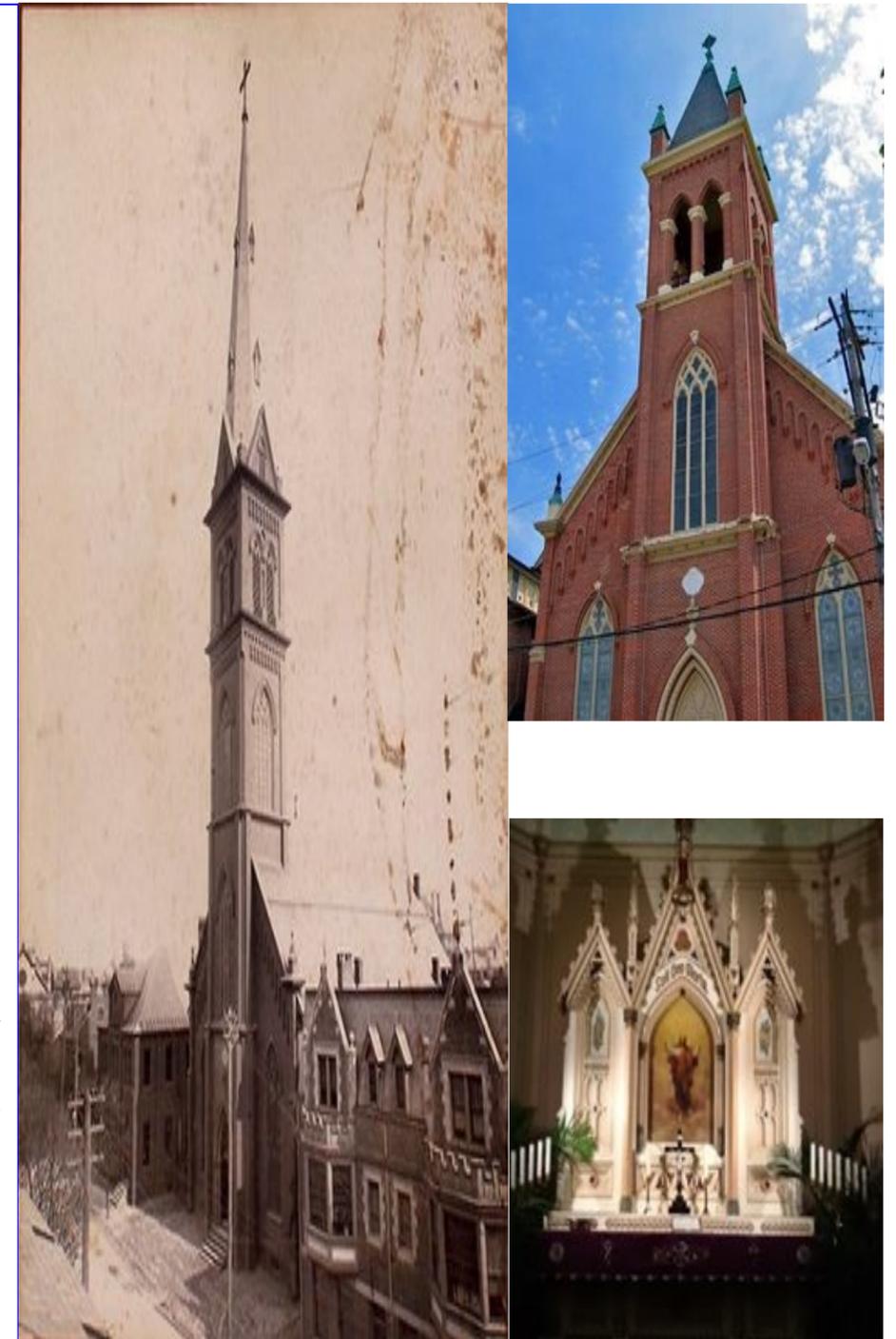
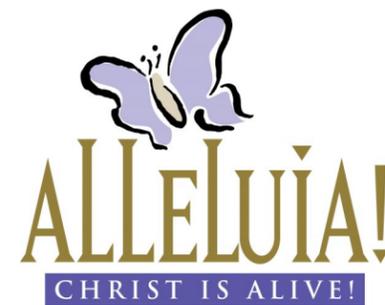
**Ken Sanders,  
Minister of Music**



Come and worship this Lenten / Easter season in our beautiful historic church. Learn of the triumphal entry into Jerusalem and the passion of the Savior of the world. Follow in the steps of the Savior as He goes from trial to crucifixion.

Join in the singing of some of the beloved hymns of the Lenten season.

Then come and rejoice in the Resurrection of our Lord the way the disciples did on that first Easter morning



First Saint John's with the original steeple of 1875

**FIRST SAINT JOHN'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
140 West King Street  
York, Pennsylvania  
17401



**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  
Ed Abendschoen-Health issues  
Nancy Hildebrand-Health Issues  
Benjamin-Grandson of Mary Homsher (Twinning Assoc., Health issues.  
Karl vanDyk-Health issue  
Ed Benedick-Health issue (friend of Ed Abendschoen)  
Jon Van Sliedrecht-Health issue  
Bonnie Abendschoen-Health issues  
David-Health issues (friend of Ed & Bonnie Abendschoen)

**FIRST TIME REQUESTS**

Julia McCourt-Health issues  
Carl Flandermyer-Health issues

**SHUT-IN MEMBERS**

Bonnie Abendschoen  
Joyce Devan  
Dawn Frey  
Kim Thompson

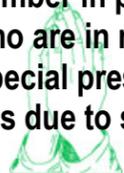
**LEADERS**

Church Pastor, 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 John Denninger

**PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING**

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

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



- 2nd - Michelle Taylor**
- 5th - Edward Abendschoen IV**
- 11th - Sylvia Barclay**
- 12th - Michael Beck**
- 15th - Lois Stambaugh**
- 20th - Joyce Devan**
- 28th - Ruth Strathmeyer**
- 29th - Bryan Santini**



**Early March Birthdays**

- 6th - Scott Dennis**
- 7th - Jerry Allison**
- 7th - Dane Smith**

**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**

Sgt. Tyr Abendschoen U. S. Army



**POLICE**

Jonathan

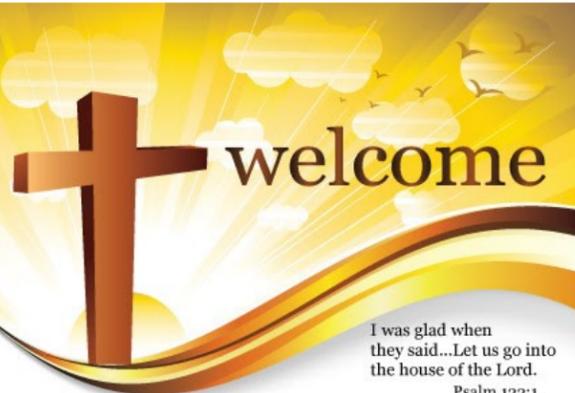



**FREE BREADS AND DESSERTS**  
**DONATED WEEKLY BY: PANERA BREAD**  
**to First St. John's Lutheran Church**  
**140 W. King St., York, PA 17401**  
**EVERY MONDAY**  
**From 9:00 through 11:00 am - Pickup at the church**  
**DOORS OPEN AT 9:00 AM**





**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

