



Kirchenblatt

January 2014

St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church
1407 Eighth Avenue
Altoona, PA 16602

If you would like to opt-out of receiving a hard copy of this newsletter, please contact the church office either by phone or email.

*Join us for Worship
Sundays at 10:45 am*

MISSION STATEMENT:
To make disciples of Jesus Christ
through Word and Sacrament by the Holy Spirit.

Table of Contents

Greetings	Page 2	Birthdays	Page 6	Announcements and	
Prayer List	Page 3	Worship Assistants	Page 6	Upcoming Events	Page 10
Letter From Amy	Page 4	WELCA	Page 7	God's Work, Our Hands	Page 11
Council Notes	Page 5	Church Calendar	Page 8-9	Daily Readings and	
Flower Chart	Page 6			Prayers	Page 13-15
				Committee Lists	Page 16

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 9 am—1pm

Email: stjamesaltoona@verizon.net Website: www.stjamesaltoona.org Phone: 944-6835

In the Event of a Pastoral Emergency, please contact Pastor Elizabeth Hess by phone at 814-943-3972 or 695-8346.

Greetings

"When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then opening their treasure chest, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road."

Matthew 2:9-12

This story may seem out of place for a January article, but it is the reading for Epiphany which is January 6. This day also marks the end of the Christmas season. The story of the three wise men, which we traditionally associate with the nativity at Christmas, is actually told on Epiphany. This is a great reading for the beginning of January because it reminds us of our duty to the child, Jesus, born on Christmas day.

When we think about Christmas we tend to think about the presents being for us, but now that Christmas day is over, we are reminded that the presents are indeed for Jesus. We can take time now to focus on the message of the wise men. The wise men came to worship the Lord and present him with gifts. If we wish to follow the wise men then it is not simply to see a baby, we are called to worship the Lord and to present ourselves as gifts. The winter months can find us not wanting to leave the warmth of our cozy homes, but the wise men remind us that now is the perfect time to focus on attending worship and using our gifts for Christ.

Peace,

Pastor Eli

Almighty God, giver of every good gift; look upon this congregation with grace. Guide the minds of our Call Committee members as they discern which of your servants will be our next pastor. Please grant that we might receive a faithful shepherd who will care for us and continue to equip us for ministry in this place. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Remember In Your Prayers



Our Prayer List:

The Manbeck family
Louisa Marshall
Doug Kauffman
Ann Bartley
John Wiederkehr
Helen Brickley
Dave Bickel
Joe Yanke
Brun Hilde Badorrek
Janet Kauffman
Those serving in our military

Homewood of Altoona:

Dick Potter

Presbyterian Village in Hollidaysburg:

Charlie Green
Patti Green

In their own homes:

Becky Manbeck
Clara Esworthy

From the Office of the Bishop....

THE VISITATION TEAM ASKS

if anyone would like to be added to the Visitation List or knows of anyone who would like to be added, please call the church office to notify us. Also, please call the office if anyone is hospitalized so that the visitation team and prayer chain can be notified. These requests can also be emailed to

stjamesaltoona@verizon.net

◆If anyone would like to join the prayer chain or knows of someone needing prayer, contact Janet Kauffman or the church office.

To the People of St. James Lutheran Church:

It is both a happy day and a sad day for me. I'm about to embark on an exciting new adventure in my life, and yet, I'm not quite ready to say good-bye.

I've been your secretary for nearly two years, and in that time I've come to think of you as family. We haven't always agreed on everything, sometimes we've even made each other mad, but always I have thought of you with love. I know many of you think of me the same way, as evidenced by the phone calls and cards asking me to stay. I don't think I'll ever be able to express how grateful I am for the outpouring of support I've received from this congregation.

But, I believe that God is calling me to move in another direction. It's frightening and unsure, but I have trust that I'll end up where I'm supposed to be.

Stay strong in your faith. I know that you've all seen troubled times, I've shared a few with you, but trust that God is with you and guiding you. I have seen his influence at work here. Whatever lies ahead for you, whatever lies ahead for me, God is at the helm. We might not always understand the twists and turns of the path, but His GPS is never wrong.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to work with and get to know all of you. You're an interesting bunch of people and I feel privileged to have had you in my life.

Your Sister In Christ,

Amy Lantz

News & Notes From Council

—A council meeting was held on December 14, 2014.

—Donna Foster made a motion to appoint Betty Boslet to the Council seat left open by Judy Bryan's resignation. Shirley Manbeck seconded the motion. The motion carried.

—The Council Minutes from November 18, 2014, were accepted as presented.

—It was noted that \$6,000 was transferred from Wienken to cover expenses.

—The funds from the Reduce, Renew, Rejoice sale were discussed. It was noted that \$355.82 were sent to Big Brothers/Big Sisters via Barbara Good and an equal amount was deposited into the church checking account.

—After the end of the sale, two leftover items were purchased for \$300 by a church member.

—It was noted that there may be a minimum balance on the checking account. Shirley Manbeck offered to check on this when she makes the next deposit.

—Council decided to adjourn the meeting at this point and reschedule it for a later date.

—A council meeting was held on December 18, 2014.

—The Council Minutes from December 14, 2014, were accepted with one correction to the attendance.

—Pastor Eli reported via email that she has been busy with home communion and visitations.

—The life of the church and the atmosphere of the church were discussed.

—The investment reports for the end of fiscal year 2013/4 were presented and discussed. The investment reports for 2014/5 were also discussed.

—Finance Meeting Minutes from December 8, 2014, were presented.

—Signers have been updated on all accounts. The signers are comprised of the executive committee of Council.

—The amended, proposed Ministry Spending Plan (budget) was distributed and discussed.

—It was reported that while many things decreased, the overall budget increased to show the prospective salary for a full time pastor.

—It was noted that this Ministry Spending Plan is a guideline for spending. We are not locked into spending these funds if they are not needed.

—The potluck luncheon was discussed. It was noted that this will be held monthly as it is very well attended.

—The phones and calling plan were discussed. It was reported that a member donated a new phone system to the church as there has been some ongoing issues with the old one.

—A motion was made and seconded to increase the calling plan to include call waiting and caller ID. This motion passed.

—A motion was made and seconded to purchase two new dehumidifiers for the church basement and charge these to church maintenance. The motion passed.

—It was noted that a motion was passed with regards to the organ at the meeting in November. Mark Hoover and the church secretary will follow up on this.

—A motion was made and seconded to hold a special congregational meeting on January 11, 2015, to vote on the new budget. This motion passed.

—The church's designated giving from estate interest was discussed. A new proposal will be presented to the congregation.


—It was noted that the Call Committee needs to meet again to continue work on the Ministry Site Profile. It was also noted that Joe Yanke would like to serve on this committee.

—The resignation of the church secretary was discussed. It was reported that an ad was placed online and in the Altoona Mirror.

—There was discussion regarding the church treasurer/bookkeeper. It was noted that Ralph Grove, the Treasurer from Trinity, may be interested in the position. Prices were also obtained from Jackson Hewitt.

We welcome any member to attend Council meetings. Or if you have a topic that you would like brought before the Council, please share it with any Council member and they can bring it to the meeting. **All Committee reports and Council Minutes are available upon request. Please contact the Church office.**

January Flower Charts & Bulletins

	Altar	Niches	Bulletins
4			
11			
18			
25			

Worship Assistants

Would you like to help serve your congregation? There are many opportunities to do so by helping for just a few minutes on Sunday morning.

Thank you to those who have donated their time to serving the congregation!



January Birthdays

1	Cathy Good
4	Ann Bartley
5	Carolyn Feather
7	Bonnie Eichelberger
7	Sienna Mayo
11	Maisie Emswiler
18	Alysia Tyler
20	Elliot Wilt
24	Ariel Manbeck
29	Delores Hoover

Happy Birthday!

	Altar Guild	Srv. Cord.	Elev. Oper.
Jan.	Sylvia	Volunteers of St. James TBA	
Feb.	TBA	Volunteers of St. James TBA	
Mar	TBA	Volunteers of St. James TBA	

	Greeters	Usher
Jan.	Volunteers of St. James TBA	
Feb.	Volunteers of St. James TBA	
Mar	Volunteers of St. James TBA	



See an error? Missing someone? Please inform the church office of any corrections to the birthday list so that the computer may be corrected.

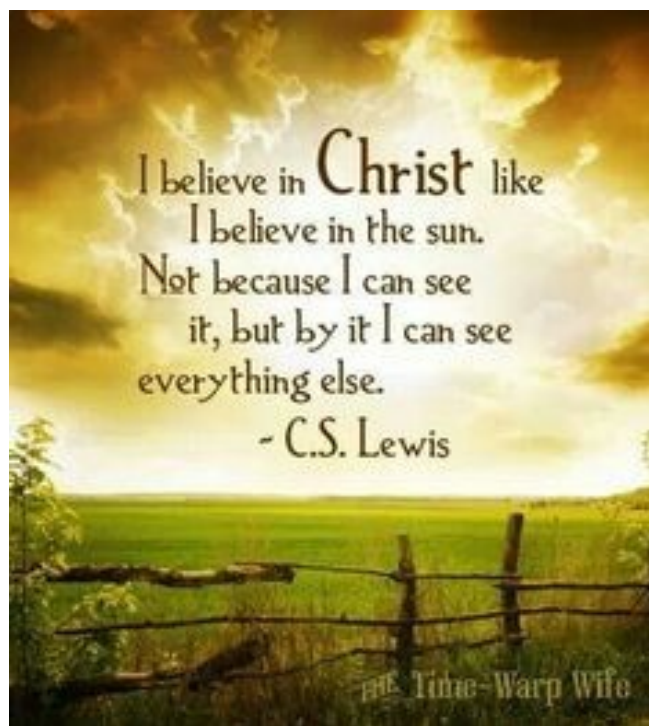
W
E
L
C
A

St James will be hosting the Allegheny Synod Women's Association Annual Convention to be held May 2, 2015. We discussed serving a continental breakfast for the group that would be provided by WELCA. We will print up a map with directions. Several members will be helping out with this function. More info following in the coming months.

The WELCA Christmas Party was held on December 13th at the US Hotel. Guests enjoyed the entertainment of singer/guitarist Pam Townsend. It was a lovely event with many in attendance to enjoy a time of friendship and fellowship.

Watch the announcements for future meeting dates and times.

N
E
W
S



Announcements and Upcoming Events

IN THE CASE OF A PASTORAL EMERGENCY,
please contact Pastor Eli at 943-3972 or 695-8346.
The church office email is stjamesaltoona@verizon.net
The church's website is www.stjamesaltoona.org
Find us on Facebook to get up-to-date information.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 11
FOLLOWING WORSHIP

COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 6 PM



Choir Practice
Thursday at 7:00 PM
Everyone is welcome!



W.e.l.c.a.

Watch the
announcements for the
next meeting date and time.

POT LUCK LUNCHEON

The December potluck luncheon was another huge success with approx. 25 people in attendance.

The next potluck luncheon will be Sunday, January 18, following worship. Bring a covered dish or a dessert and stay for great food and fellowship. You don't want to miss this event!

St. James welcomes Ralph Grove as the new bookkeeper. Ralph has a great deal of experience with church record keeping and will make a great addition to the St. James team.



**The Allegheny Synod
25,000 Can Challenge**

**Advent
(Nov. 30) -**



**Super Bowl
Sunday
(Feb. 1)**

The Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 13, at 6:00 PM.

The Allegheny Synod has been challenged to collectively raise 25,000 items for the souper bowl of caring. Donations will be collected through Sunday, February 1. A collection box is located in the foyer of the church.

DEADLINE FOR THE FEB. ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS THURSDAY, JAN. 15.

God's Work, Our Hands

Stories of Faith In Action

FOOD TRUCK MINISTRY ON THE MOVE

If you happen to be on the east side of St. Paul, Minn., on Thursdays during lunchtime, there's a place where you can get a fresh, healthy meal — free of charge. Enjoy a homemade meat or veggie hand pie and salad, along with a cool glass of water and a genuine sense of community. And if you feel like hanging around, there's a Bible study and prayer service.

Shobi's Table, a mobile food truck restaurant and portable ministry, reaches out to people who are confronting homelessness and other hardships. Thanks in part to a grant from the ELCA churchwide organization through Mission Support, this new food truck ministry serves about 80 people every week.

Margaret Kelly, pastor of this unique mission start in the ELCA Saint Paul Area Synod, describes it as "a ministry of, by and for folks struggling on the margins in St. Paul."

About two-thirds of the volunteers who prepare food for Shobi's Table have been homeless, and some struggle with mental illness, addictions and unemployment. "They are the evangelists," says Margaret. "I'm there for good order. They walk up and down the block and invite people for a meal."

Noah says, "The reason I became a volunteer is because I was once homeless. I do it for two reasons — to give back to those that helped me and to show those we're serving that there is a way out, if you choose it. It may not be tomorrow, it may not be next year, but things can and will change."

"It seems very big, but we're just serving a meal, saying prayers and being community together."

MARGARET KELLY

This ministry "just keeps opening for us, which is also very scary. We've been called into this and given the resources. It seems very big, but we're just serving a meal, saying prayers and being community together," Margaret explains.

"I'm happy that I have a shoestring budget because I get to be in relationship with some really phenomenal partners," says Margaret. "I wouldn't be able to do this without support from the ELCA, our synod and local congregations."



If you would like a free copy of the 2014 edition of Stories of Faith in Action, please call 1-800-638-3522.

©2014 ELCA ElCA.org LivingLutheran.com

Daily Readings and Prayers

January 1—Luke 2:21, Psalm 54

Lord Jesus, thank You for shedding Your blood on the cross to save me from sin, death, and the devil. Amen.

Quote of the Day: True wisdom is gazing at God. Isaac the Syrian

January 2—Luke 8:43-48, Psalm 6

Dearest Jesus, create in me a clean heart each day, that I may love and serve You. Amen.

Quote of the Day: Worship...is not part of the Christian life; it is the Christian life. Gerald Vann

January 3—Exodus 15:1-21, Psalm 15-22

May my heart always rejoice for Your deliverance of me, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Quote of the Day: The truly wise are those whose souls are in Christ. St. Ambrose.

January 4—Psalm 62:1-8, Psalm 27

Lord Jesus, protect me from my enemies through the power of Your Gospel. Amen.

Quote of the Day: Let temporal things serve your use, but the eternal be the object of your desire. Thomas A. Kempis

January 5—Matthew 7:24-27, Psalm 46

Strengthen our faith always by the power of Your Word, dear Lord Jesus. Amen.

Quote of the Day: If God's will is your will and if He always has His way (with you), then you always have your way also. Hannah Whitall Smith

January 6—Matthew 2:1-12, Psalm 97

Continue to shine Your light on us and through us, Jesus, our King. Amen.

Quote of the Day: The condition for gaining God's full blessing is absolute surrender to Him. Andrew Murray

January 7—Colossians 1:24-29, Psalm 119:105-112

Son of righteousness, heal me of my sins, that I may live for You. Amen.

Quote of the Day: There is a deep wisdom inaccessible to the wise and prudent, but disclosed to babes. Christopher Bryant

January 8—Exodus 12:1-13, Psalm 19

May we, by faith, always cling tightly to Your innocence, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Quote of the Day: God will never reveal more truth about himself till you obey what you already know. Oswald Chambers

January 9—Hebrews 10:1-18, Psalm 102:1-22

Lamb of God, may I thank You for Your sacrifice by serving others. Amen.

Quote of the Day: *Where there is truth, there is God. Miguel De Cervantes*

January 10—John 4:1-15, Psalm 42

May we always pant for Your Word of life, dearest Lord Jesus. Amen.

Quote of the Day: *Simply wait upon Him. So doing, we shall be directed, supplied, protected, corrected, and rewarded. Vance Havner*

January 11—Titus 3:3-8, Psalm 18:1-19

Dear Jesus, create in us clean hearts through our Baptism. Amen.

Quote of the Day: *The difference between worldliness and godliness is a renewed mind. Erwin Lutzer*

January 12—1 John 2:1-6, Psalm 43

Continue to intercede for me, Jesus, forgiving all my sin. Amen.

Quote of the Day: *The only way to get our values right is...to see things not in the light of time, but in the light of eternity. William Barclay*

January 13—Romans 3:19-28, Psalm 30

Look to the righteous of Your Son, Lord, and not to my sin. Amen.

Quote of the Day: *A man there was, though some did count him mad, the more he cast away, the more he had. John Bunyan*

January 14—Ephesians 1:11-23, Psalm 111

Heavenly Father, I thank You for everything You give me in Jesus. Amen.

Quote of the Day: *The only life that counts is the life that costs. Frederick P. Wood*

January 15—Galatians 4:1-7, Psalm 2

Abba, Father, keep us in the true faith through Your Son, Jesus. Amen.

Quote of the Day: *One gem from that ocean (the Bible) is worth all the pebbles from earthly streams. Robert Murray M'Cheyne*

January 16—John 15:1-11, Psalm 1

Abide in me always through Your Word, Lord Jesus, so that I may live through You. Amen.

Quote of the Day: *Oh, study your hearts, watch your hearts, keep your hearts! John Flavel*

January 17—John 15:12-17, Psalm 119:1-8

Keep my faith in You active in love to others, Jesus. Amen.

Quote of the Day: *God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him. John Piper.*

January 18—1 John 5:9-13, Psalm 56

Preserve the sanctity of life through us and Your Word, Jesus. Amen.

Quote of the Day: The center of God's will is our only safety. Betsie Ten Boom

January 19—John 11:17-27, Psalm 16

Give me hope in the resurrection You give me, Jesus. Amen.

Quote of the Day: Wisdom is knowing when to speak your mind and when to mind your speech. Anonymous

January 20—2 Corinthians 4:7-12, Psalm 90

Whether I am rich or poor, in my life and death, may Your life work in me, Jesus. Amen.

Quote of the Day: Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Robert Robinson

January 21—Ezekiel 34:1-16, Psalm 107:1-9

You alone are good, Jesus. Thank You for Your goodness shown to me. Amen.

Quote of the Day: Men...praise God in such a manner that He scarcely obtains the tenth part of His due. John Calvin

January 22—John 10:24-30, Psalm 139:1-18

You know me, Jesus. May I continue to know You by listening to Your Word. Amen.

Quote of the Day: God does not love us because we are valuable. We are valuable because He loves us. Fulton John Sheen

January 23—Mark 6:30-44, Psalm 145

Good Shepherd, continue to feed me, body and soul, out of Your grace. Amen.

Quote of the Day: To worship God is to realize the purpose for which God created us. Herbert M. Carson

January 24—1 Samuel 17:31-37, Psalm 59

When my sin leaves me helpless, Lord, defend me with Your mighty love. Amen.

Quote of the Day: If worship does not change us, it has not been worship. Richard Foster

January 25—Luke 15:1-7, Psalm 119:169-176

As we have been found by You, Jesus, send us out to seek those lost in sin. Amen.

Quote of the Day: The heavenly Father has no spoiled children. He loves them too much for that. Fred Mitchell

January 26—John 10:1-5, Psalm 28

Speak Your Word, Lord Jesus, that I may follow You always. Amen.

Quote of the Day: God's investment in us is so great He could not possibly abandon us. Eriwn Lutzer

January 27—John 19:28-30, Psalm 3

Thank You, Jesus, for laying down Your life so that I may live. Amen.

Quote of the Day: The cure for fear is faith. Norman Vincent Peale

January 28—Matthew 13:44-46, Psalm 25

Thank You, Lord Jesus, for redeeming me to live my life for You. Amen.

Quote of the Day: It is not wonderful news to believe that salvation lies out of ourselves? Martin Luther

January 29—1 Peter 1:13-21, Psalm 69:1-18

You paid the ultimate price for my sin, Jesus. May I thank You always by serving You and others. Amen.

Quote of the Day: Holy obedience puts to shame all natural and selfish desires. St. Francis of Assisi

January 30—Deuteronomy 7:1-11, Psalm 72

Never let me go, Jesus, through faith in Your Word. Amen.

Quote of the Day: It is not your business to succeed, but to do right; when you have done so, the rest lies with God. C. S. Lewis

January 31—Matthew 18:21-35, Psalm 62

You forgive me, Lord. Help me to forgive others. Amen.

Quote of the Day: Are we as willing to go into debt for the work of God as we are for a vacation to Hawaii? Erwin Lutzer

<p><i>Church Council Members</i></p> <p>Mark Hoover—President Shirley Manbeck—Vice President Donna Wilt—Secretary —Treasurer Betty Boslet Dana Detwiler Carolyn Feather Donna Foster Evelyn Holsinger Louisa Marshall Debra Morgan</p>	<p><i>Pastor— Pastor Eli Hess, Vacancy Pastor</i> <i>Church Administrative Assistant -</i> <i>Organist & Choir Director - Pat McConnell</i> <i>Financial Secretary/Bookkeeper - Ralph Grove</i> <i>Custodian—Shirley Manbeck</i></p>
---	--

Chairpersons are listed in bold at the top of each committee.

Mutual Ministry

Donna Foster
Evelyn Holsinger
Joe Yanke

By-Laws

*Betty Boslet
*Carolyn Feather
Maizie Emswiler
*Debra Morgan
Edith Trinks

Christian Education/
Social Ministry

Janet Kauffman

Maizie Emswiler
*Carolyn Feather
*Evelyn Holsinger
Sylvia Malsatzki
*Shirley Manbeck
*Debra Morgan
Edie Trinks

Stewardship/Evangelism

***Donna Wilt**

Dana Detwiler
Janet Kauffman
Louisa Marshall

Worship & Music

Dana Detwiler
Donna Foster
Louisa Marshall
Pat McConnell
Phyllis Spinazzola

Finance

*Mark Hoover
Jean Bickel
*Betty Boslet
John Wiederkehr
*Donna Wilt

Property

***Bill Dambeck**

Bob Holsinger
Shirley Manbeck