



Kirchenblatt

MARCH 2015

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.**

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Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 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

March 1, 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ of St. James Lutheran Congregation ,
As I write this letter, I see the snow outside my window. This winter is a hard one. February means the beginning of Lent. My mind does not want to go there right now. But yet the forty days of Lent means that it will officially be Spring before the **Last Sunday** in Lent. That is good news!

Lent is a forty-day period before Easter. It begins on Ash **Wednesday**. We skip Sundays when we count the forty days, because Sundays commemorate the Resurrection. Lent is a season of soul-searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection and taking stock. Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. By observing the forty days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days.

Often some people give up something for Lent like chocolate or other sweets. We might stop doing something we like to do like shopping. These kinds of actions are helpful, but do we then focus on Christ's words and journey to his cross?

Try this: read one of the Gospels or more than one. Mark's Gospel reads like a newspaper article. One can read it in one sitting or just a few. Carry the thoughts you read in the Gospels with you throughout the Lenten Season. Pray daily.

I usually like to have a special study for **Sunday** School or midweek class during Lent. Since I arrived on the scene just a week ago, I have not had time to plan any Lenten study. I hope we can make some plans for next year's Lenten Season.

May each of you have a meaningful Lent as we travel towards Spring and the Resurrection celebration of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

In Christ Pastor Jim

Intentional Interim Pastor
St. James Lutheran Church, Altoona



Meet Your new Church Secretary

Hi my name is Tim Surkovich. I am your new church secretary. I will be in the office Monday-Thursday 9am to 1pm. I am looking forward to meeting each and every one of you. I am excited to take on this new challenge and hope I will be able to meet all your expectations. In the meantime let me tell you a little about me.

I am 53 years old and retired on disability. I have the heart and soul of a much younger and wilder rock and roller. In my twenties I was invincible. I had the perfect job, the perfect wife, and the perfect future until the morning I woke to discover my whole left side was numb. I chalked it up to sleeping wrong, but stayed numb. Then it got really scary: I temporarily lost some of my vision and couldn't feel anything in my legs. I lost all feeling in my fingertips. The doctors diagnosed Multiple Sclerosis.

Multiple Sclerosis, or MS, is a disease that attacks the central nervous system, which is made up of the brain, spinal cord, and optic nerves. The progress, severity, and specific symptoms of MS are unpredictable. It is incurable.

I live in Hollidaysburg with my wife Lisa. My oldest son CJ lives in New York City and works for a huge internet marketing agency. My twin sons Kyle and Todd attend Penn College in Williamsport. Kyle is majoring in Horticulture and Todd is majoring in Graphic Design. Lisa is a Reading Specialist for the Hollidaysburg Area School District. We also have our two furry friends, Seuss our puppy and Rocco the wonder cat.

Besides my foundation I am involved in a great many activities including but not limited to: Grand Knight of Hollidaysburg, my churches Men's Club, Sound Operator for my church, Eagle Scout mentor, Producer/Box Office Manager for the Hollidaysburg Area Children's Theatre.

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....

Please hold **Rick Kazmer's (our Lutheran Letter editor) mother** in prayer as she will be having some tests done and is praying for good news with the results.

Please keep **Pastor Frank Harpster** in prayer for a speedy recovery from minor knee surgery.

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.

News & Notes From Council

—A council meeting was held on February 17, 2015.

—Minutes and reports were reviewed.

—Reports were given on two special council meetings pertaining to Pastor James Rill.

—A report was presented telling that attendance had increased. In particular Christmas Eve was up 50 to 70%

—The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented with no questions.

—There is a Christian Ed/Social Ministry meeting scheduled on Saturday, March 21st at 10AM

—Ministry and the possibility of a new pastor were discussed.

—The Stewardship/Evangelism Committee will hold a meeting sometime within the next month.

—It was reported that the organ is in good condition. A tuning will be needed in April. A motion was made and carried.

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.**

—The By-Laws Committee is going over the By-Laws, and the findings will be reported shortly.

—A motion was made to accept Timothy Surkovich's position for secretary and carried.

—As Flu season is upon us Pastor Jim will make an announcement regarding Passing the Peace. Some may want to nod.

—It was approved purchase a new computer for the office.

—One communication was read.

—The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY Jan. 1, 2015 - Jan. 31, 2015

Financials

Contribution & Attendance Summary

January 2014

Contributions \$2,258.00
Average Weekly Attendance 31

January 2015

Contributions \$1,713.00
Average Weekly Attendance 31


INCOME

Bank Interest	\$0.06
Contributions	
General	\$1,553.00
Designated	\$160.00
Special	\$35.00
Other Income	\$0.00
	<hr/>
	\$1,748.06

EXPENSES

Pastoral Administration	\$320.00
Worship & Music	\$800.02
Office	\$764.94
Custodial & Property	\$3,096.72
Social Ministry	\$31.80
	<hr/>
	\$6,267.02

March Flower Charts & Bulletins

	Altar	Niches	Bulletins
1			
8			
15	Bill & Judy Dambeck IMO Billy Dambeck		
22	Bob Holsinger Family IMO Walter Mueller		

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!

March Birthdays

- 7 Barbara Good
- 7 Rebekah Manbeck
- 20 Patricia Green
- 24 Michael Fanelli



Happy Birthday!

	Altar Guild	Srv. Cord.	Elev. Oper.
Mar	Sylvia	Volunteers of St. James TBA	
Apr	Volunteers	Volunteers of St. James TBA	
May	Volunteers	Volunteers of St. James TBA	

	Greeters	Usher
Mar	Volunteers of St. James TBA	
Apr	Volunteers of St. James TBA	
May	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
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A

WELCA Meeting April 18 th 9 - 3 . Allegheny synod WELCA event at St James August 8th. This would be an all day event.

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W
S



Fellow Parishioners:

We would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers and acts of kindness during our recent loss. My mother was a great mom and a special mother-in-law. She will be greatly missed.

Much Love
Shirley & David Manbeck

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:

COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 17 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.

The Council Meeting is scheduled
for Tuesday, March 17, at 6:00 PM.

POT LUCK LUNCHEON

The potluck luncheon will be held
on April 12. Dinner will be pro-
vided by the ladies of the church.
Please bring a covered dish.

BASKETS OF PROMISE

This Lent we're joining Lutheran World Relief's Baskets of Promise campaign. Each week, we'll collect a different item that we'll use to assemble Personal Care Kits that give people around the world tools to stay healthy in life's most challenging situations. Our goal is to assemble LWR Personal Care Kits during Lent.

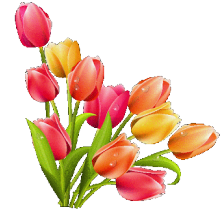
HERE'S OUR COLLECTION SCHEDULE:

- FEB. 22 Bars of Soap (4 to 5 oz., any brand, in original wrapping)
- MAR. 1 Lightweight bath towels, dark color recommended, no larger than 52 X 27
- MAR. 8 Adult Size Toothbrush, in original packaging
- MAR. 15 Heavy Duty Combs
- MAR. 22 Nail clippers, metal, attached file optional

For more information contact Maizie Emswiler.

DEADLINE FOR THE APR. ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS MONDAY, MAR. 16.

Easter Flowers



Your name (as you wish it to appear in the bulletin)

This Donation is made:

IHO: _____

IMO: _____

Choice of Flowers:

_____ Lilies(\$6.50) _____ Tulips(\$6.00) _____ Daffodils(\$6.50)

_____ Hyacinths(\$5.50/2bulb)

Amount of Contribution: \$ _____ Envelope Number: _____

Please Check One:

_____ Yes, I do want to take the flower(s) home with me.

_____ No, I do not want to take the flower(s) home with me. I would like them to be given to a shut-in or friend of St. James.

Please use the My Offering envelope in your pew to place your order and payment. Check the Flower Fund box on the envelope and place in the offering plate by March 20th

Daily Readings and Prayers

March 1—Luke 18:13-14, Psalm 86: 1-7

Lord Jesus, hear me when I cry out to You; remind me that You cried out to Your Father for my sake. Amen

Quote of the Day: Only he who believes is obedient, and only he who is obedient believes. Dietrich Bonhoeffer

March 2—Peter 2:25-40, Psalm 124

Lord, I was doomed with no way out. Thank You for Your Son's sacrifice so that I don't have to endure what I deserve. Thank You for free pardon. Amen.

Quote of the Day: Holy Spirit, think through me till your ideas are my ideas. Amy Carmichael

March 3—1 Corinthians 1: 3-7, Psalm 116

Father, thank You for keeping us from the cross we deserve. Thank You for an eternity with You, who gives all courage. Amen.

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

March 4—Song of Solomon 8:6-7, Psalm 40: 1-10

Heavenly Father, let me never forget whose I am; I know You never will. Amen.

Quote of the Day: He who provides for this life, but takes no care for eternity, is wise for a moment, but a fool forever. John Tillotson

March 5—Philippians 2: 8-11, Psalm 44: 4-8

Holy God, thank You, thank You, thank You for the eternal life You give me so that I may forever thank and praise Your name. Amen.

Quote of the Day: In shunning a trial, we are seeking to avoid a blessing. Charles Spurgeon

March 6—John 19:1-6, Psalm 45:6-8

King of all creation, You reign over all, and yet You sent Your Son to die for us. Thank You for claiming us as Your children and heirs of eternal life. Amen.

Quote of the Day: When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don't throw away your ticket and jump off. You sit still and trust the engineer. Corrie Ten Boom

March 7—Galatians 2:19-21, Psalm 49

Thank You, God, for all my days-now and forever. Amen.

Quote of the Day: By perseverance the snail reached the ark. Charles Spurgeon

March 8—Isaiah 53:10-11, Psalm 36

Lord Jesus, remind me to cast my cares on You, for You have already borne them all. Amen.

Quote of the Day: God will never permit any troubles to come upon us unless He has a plan by which great blessing can come out of the difficulty. Peter Marshall

March 9—Matthew 27:15-16, Psalm 32

Lord, thank You for Your Son's sacrifice and for the forgiveness I receive in return. Amen.

Quote of the Day: Christianity is a battle, not a dream. Wendell Phillips

March 10—Philippians 2:5-11, Psalm 95

What a friend we have in You, Jesus. What a privilege it is to praise Your name. Amen.

Quote of the Day: Worry is an intrusion into God's providence. John Haggai

March 11—Matthew 11:25-30, Psalm 38:15-22

Lord, I am sorry for my sin. Thank You for forgiving me in Jesus' name. Amen.

Quote of the Day: Put everything you have into the care of your heart, for it determines what your life amounts to. Dallas Willard

March 12—Zechariah 10:6-12, Psalm 103

Lord, remind me of Your life-changing compassion when I feel lost and torn.. Amen.

Quote of the Day: Faith in God will always be crowned. William S. Plummer

March 13—Mark 10:46-52, Psalm 123

O Lord, have mercy. Amen.

Quote of the Day: O Lord, in Thee have I trusted; let me never be confounded. Book of Common Prayer

March 14—Matthew 17:1-3, Psalm 51

Lord, clothe me in Your righteousness earned by the blood of Jesus. In His name I pray. Amen.

Quote of the Day: God always gives His very best to those who leave the choice with Him. Hudson Taylor

March 15—Romans 5:6-12, Psalm 104:24-25

Loving Creator, forgive me for turning against You. Thank You for always forgiving me. Amen.

Quote of the Day: All the graces of a Christian spring from the death of self. Madame Guyon

March 16—Revelation 7:9-14, Psalm 9:11-20

My God and King, I thank You that I am an heir of Your everlasting kingdom. Amen.

Quote of the Day: Our only business is to love and delight ourselves in God. Brother Lawrence

March 17—John 10:11-18, Psalm 23

Good Shepard, guide me and remind me of the price You paid for my life. Amen.

Quote of the Day: Get all you can, save all you can, and give all you can. John Wesley

March 18—Mark 14:46-52, Psalm 4

Lord, thank You for the gift of prayer. Amen.

Quote of the Day: God is more anxious to bestow His Blessings on us than we are to receive them. St. Augustine

March 19—Ephesians 2:1-10, Psalm 9:1-10

Lord God, thank You for Your unconditional love. Amen.

Quote of the Day: Discipline and love are not antithetical; one is a function of the other. James Dobson

March 20—Matthew 9:35-36:10, Psalm 135:13-21

God, Your love and compassion amaze me. Thank You for giving Your Son so that I can be Your child. Amen.

Quote of the Day: Discipline is a proof of our sonship. Erwin Lutzer

March 21—John 1:19-34, Psalm 78:52-55, 67-72

Lamb of God, thank You for enduring all when the hour came for You to save us. Amen.

Quote of the Day: If you are looking for an example of humility, look at the Cross. Thomas Aquinas

March 22—Luke 23:32-43, Psalm 22:1-8, 14-21

Heavenly Father, thank You for hearing Jesus' plea for our forgiveness. Amen.

Quote of the Day: Our Lord lived His life...,to give the normal standard for our lives. Oswald Chambers

March 23—Luke 23:26-31, Psalm 38:1-14

We mourn for our sin, Lord, but we rejoice in Your salvation. Amen.

Quote of the Day: *Are you laying a feather bed for me? No, that shall not be. My Lord was stretched on a hard and painful tree. Brother Lawrence.*

March 24—Romans 6:1-14, 23, Psalm 94

Righteous God, thank You for declaring me not guilty. Amen.

Quote of the Day: *Romance is at the heart of the universe and is key to all existence. Paul Billheimer*

March 25—1 John 4:7-21, Psalm 100

Son of God, Immanuel, thank You for becoming the Virgin's Son. Thank You for coming down to be with us so that we may be with You forever. Amen.

Quote of the Day: *God is not deceived by externals. C. S. Lewis*

March 26—Jeremiah 29:11-14, Psalm 33:13-22

Our hope is in You, Lord. Thank You for Your steadfast love. Amen.

Quote of the Day: *God shapes the world by prayer. E. M. Bounds*

March 27—1 Peter 2:22-25, Psalm 89:5-18

Lord, thank You for seeing Jesus when You look at me. Amen.

Quote of the Day: *God did not call us to be successful, but to be faithful. Mother Teresa*

March 28—Matthew 27:27-31, Psalm 89:46-52

Loving Savior, forgive me for the pain I've caused You. Bring me back to Your comforting embrace. Amen.

Quote of the Day: *I would hate my own soul if I did not find it loving God. St. Augustine*

March 29—Zechariah 9:9-17, Psalm 118:14-29

King of all, thank You for riding on and for saving us all. Let Your kingdom come. Amen

Quote of the Day: *He who has no vision of eternity will never get a true hold of time. Thomas Carlyle*

March 30—Psalm 28, Psalm 77

Father, when I tremble in fear, keep my faith firmly grounded in Jesus. Amen

Quote of the Day: *A religion without mystery must be a religion without God. Jeremy Taylor*

March 31—Isaiah 55, Psalm 98

Lord, even as we mourn for our sins, we delight in Your marvelous salvation. Amen.

Quote of the Day: *If you don't believe in the devil's existence, just try resisting him for a while. Charles Finney*

<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 James Rill, Intentional Interim Pastor</i> <i>Church Administrative Assistant - Tim Surkovich</i> <i>Organist & Choir Director - Pat McConnell</i> <i>Financial Secretary/Bookkeeper - Ralph Grove</i> <i>Custodian—Shirley Manbeck</i></p>
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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