



Kirchenblatt

March 2014

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

*Join us for Worship
Sundays at 10:45 am
with Sunday School
for all ages at 9:30 am*

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

Table of Contents

Greetings	Page 2	Thank Yous	Page 6	Birthdays	Page 11
Prayer List	Page 3	Financials	Page 7	Worship Assistants	Page 11
Pastor Jamie Olson	Page 4	Church Calendar	Page 8-9	Announcements and	
Getting To Know...	Page 5	Council Notes	Page 10	Upcoming Events	Page 12-15
WELCA News	Page 6	Flower Charts	Page 11	Committee Lists	Page 16

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 9 am—1pm

Email: stjamesaltoona@verizon.net Website: www.stjamesaltoona.org

In the Event of a Pastoral Emergency, please contact Pastor Ed Harsharger by phone at 814-414-9588, by email at PastorECH@comcast.net, or at the church office at 944-6835.

Greetings From The Pastor

A woman had moved to a new community and since she was an avid reader one of her first stops was the local library. She got her card and started visiting the library often. There was only one problem. She felt she was getting rude treatment from the Assistant Librarian. Finally, out of frustration she lodged a complaint with the head Librarian. The Librarian spoke to her Assistant and the next time the new-comer came into the library she was given the “royal” treatment.

It turns out that instead of scolding the Assistant for what was perceived to be bad behavior, the Librarian had told her how much the woman appreciated the great service she had been getting. The Assistant, with a new sense of appreciation, rose to the occasion, changed her attitude and began to render better service to all of her “customers.”

Luther tells us that the 8th Commandment, ***“You shall not bear false witness,”*** is really about how we handle the truth we know about people. The Librarian could have told her Assistant what the woman really thought of her and caused a riff that might never have been resolved. Instead she chose to describe to the Assistant the kind of treatment the woman expected from her and, by so doing, converted a co-worker and created a friendship between two potential adversaries. Flattery may not always get us somewhere but it sure beats the alternative.

There is a line in the hymn, “Amazing Grace,” that has always bothered me. ***“Amazing grace that saved a wretch like me.”*** Jesus does not treat us like we are wretched people. He treats us as “saints in the making.” As John 3:17 states: ***“God did not send his Son to condemn the world.”*** Jesus came to help us reach our full potential. It is time for us to help one another in general, and St. James in particular, reach our full potential. **GEHT NIEMALS AUF!**

Pastor Ed

Most Merciful God, you are the great head of the Church. Look upon us with your favor as we enter the call process. Through this time, empower us, as your people that we might continue the ministry and witness begun in this place. Grant us the strength and the spirit of cooperation to do your will so that we, as a congregation, might continue to be a shining witness to you. Make us ready to assist our new leader in the work that lies ahead. Through Jesus Christ, your Son, 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
Gemini Eger
Joe Yanke
Brun Hilde Badorrek
Those serving in our military

Elmcroft 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.

Just back from the Youth Encounter Quake / Zone with 18 of our youth, the one thing that really impressed me was their worship entitled 'Celebration.' Many who come to worship may find the concept of worship as celebration a struggle, simply because their circumstances at the moment are not lending to any type of celebration. Loss, pain, illness, hopelessness, grief, anger, financial problems, and many other issues can affect how we are able to worship and quite frankly the concept of worship as celebration can be farthest from a person's mind.

Worship as celebration is to say that God is bigger than anything that comes our way and that God is our reason to celebrate. It says in the scriptures that God has known us from the beginning of everything. God knows the hair of our head. God knows our struggles. God is with us to the end of the age. Sure, it would be great for us to never have to face these moments, but living in a broken world, no one is exempt. Quite frankly, worship is a break from the world and the challenges we face as a people which is surely a reason to celebrate.

Worshipping in community with other broken individuals in a place of sanctuary is about not going it alone. Even in our darkest moments, God comes to us in the Word and in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Please know that you are known by the living God and your place of worship is a homecoming each week that promises us Gods' presence with others who are dealing with their own issues. Please join all the faithful who gather for worship each week and try even on your worst day to celebrate that God is surely with you in his house!

Blessings for a wonderful celebration of life!

Pastor Jaime G. Olson
Evangelical Lutheran Church
Duncansville, Pennsylvania

Reprinted with permission from
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Getting to know...

Getting to know...

Meet the Wilt Family. Eric, Julia, Erikka, Ethan and Elliott Wilt. They live in Brush Oaks in Altoona. Eric has been a member of St. James for 47 years and his wife Julia became a member after the birth of their daughter Erikka 24 years ago. They wanted to raise their children as Lutherans. The children were baptized, attended religion classes and have all been confirmed in their faith.

The Wilts are active participants in the services at St. James. Over the Christmas break, Ethan and Elliot helped out by lecturing and assisting with communion. Eric and Julia have also agreed to help in this capacity.

Eric works for Reinhart Food Service and Julia works for Home Nursing Agency. They have been married for 26 years. Eric's parents are William and Donna Wilt and attend St James. Julia's parents are Charles and Mary Ann Weatherwalk of Altoona.

Their daughter graduated from Clarion University with a degree in Physics and a minor in mathematics. She attended the University of Galway during a study abroad in Ireland. She is currently teaching at James River High School in Virginia.

Ethan is a junior at Juniata College in Huntingdon. He has been a starter for the JC football's Eagles as an outside linebacker since his freshmen year. Ethan played in his first bowl game at Albright College in November and was named 1 of 4 football players of the Centennial Conference academic honor roll. He will earn a degree in Political Science with a minor in history and is on track to graduate with honors in his degree. He will take his LSATS in June to attend Law school.

Elliott earned a scholarship and took a seat in the BSN Nursing program at the University of Pitt at Johnstown. Currently he has outstanding academics and is finishing his first year. He just received his chenille letter and pin from AAHS for tennis since graduation. Elliott was notified that it is being framed and plated!

Ethan and Elliott have both finished the fall semester on the Deans list at both college campuses.

The Wilt Family will celebrate this year with their daughters engagement, with a wedding at St. James on December 27, 2014! They will welcome a new member to their family, Cory Brown.

We thank you for taking the time to share in our family's blessings and pray for your family. God bless.

W
E
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C
A

Ladies of St. James! Spring is finally in sight and along with it a new season of WELCA. Come to the March meeting with all kinds of ideas about what you would like to see happen in our group this year. As in the past, we try to have a good mix of activities and projects that would be of service to the church, some for the good of the community, and others just for our own enjoyment and/or enrichment. Any and all ideas are welcome. Nothing is too trivial or too big to be discussed and considered. Let's get off to a good start on Saturday morning, March 15, in the St. James Sunday School Room, at 8:30 AM. See you there!

N
E
W
S

Thank You

The Volunteers and Board Members
acknowledge your contributions and
support of our services with deep
gratitude.

We thank you sincerely,

Altoona Food Bank

Thank you very much for your gift of \$10. Your financial support of Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministries clearly demonstrates your dedication to our mission *"to serve people through a ministry of love, compassion and mercy in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ."*

Sincerely,
Patricia W. Savage
President/CEO

Thank You

Financial Reports

CHARITABLE DONATIONS

October 1, 2013 - January 31, 2014

MEMBER SPECIAL GIVING

Allegheny Synod - Designated	\$315.00
Blanket Sunday	\$76.00
Harvest Home	\$320.00
Mission	\$45.00
White Gift	\$105.00

BENEVOLENCE

Allegheny Synod - Designated Support	\$1,125.00
Haller Earnings - ELCA Disaster Response	\$2,018.23

INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY

January 1, 2014 - January 31, 2014

INCOME

Bank Interest	\$0.46
Contributions	
General	\$2,088.00
Designated	\$170.00
Special	\$135.00
Thrivent Matching Funds	\$300.00
	<u>\$2,693.46</u>

EXPENSES

Pastoral Administration	\$1,840.68
Worship & Music	\$670.61
Office	\$970.83
Custodial & Property	\$2,614.10
Christian Educations	\$15.00
Social Ministry	\$74.28
White Gift	\$105.00
Thrivent Matching Funds	\$300.00
Insurance Claim	\$12,100.00
Benevolence	\$500.00
	<u>\$19,190.50</u>

January 2013

Contributions \$2,801.80 Average Weekly Attendance 45

January 2014

Contributions \$2,258.00 Average Weekly Attendance 31

News & Notes From Council

—A council meeting was held on February 11, 2014.

—The agenda was adopted with one addition.

—The Council Minutes from the previous meeting stand as presented.

—The matter of Council President and Vice President was discussed. As no other member of Council would take the position, Pastor Ed agreed to serve as Council President. Elizabeth Richards agreed to serve as Vice President.

—The Pastor's report was submitted and accepted.

—Pastor Ed noted that he will be off on Sunday, March 9, 2014. Peggy Thatcher will fill in.

—Pastor Ed has agreed to assist Allegheny Lutheran Social Service while a replacement is sought for Pastor Sharon Erb. This is on a part-time, emergency basis.

—The Treasurer's report was submitted and accepted.

—The Treasurer noted that the insurance money for the Baptismal Font Cover was returned.

—A question was raised regarding an insurance payment of \$702. This is the yearly premium for worker's compensation insurance.

—It was decided that the Treasurer will put the money from the Dorothy Mann estate (\$46,748) into a six month Certificate of Deposit through Raymond James.

—Presently, Elizabeth Richards has two possible candidates for the treasurer position.

—Lori Savino has agreed to stay on past March 31, to assist with the transition to a new treasurer.

—The church insurance was discussed at length. Because of a premium increase, Elizabeth contacted William Grossman of Brotherhood Mutual. Two new quotes were submitted and one was selected (see filed documents for details) for the time being. The entire policy will be reviewed and revised in May.

—Reservations for the church picnic have been made. This year, as it was last year, the picnic will take place at Highland Park, Pavilion #1.

—Minutes from the Property Committee meeting on January 28, 2014 were submitted. The next meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2014, following the church service.

—The leak in the parish house roof was discussed. Progress is being made with having this repaired.

—Handrails leading into the church and on the right side of the steps up to the sanctuary were repaired by Mike Fanelli.

—A survey of the church has been done. The Property Committee has recommended that a church clean-out be completed as there are many things that need to be thrown away or are not being used.

—Minutes from the Stewardship/Evangelism meeting were submitted.

—Each person on Council was asked to contact four people/families from the active/inactive roster to invite them back to church.

—The Stewardship/Evangelism committee recommends running a \$5 ad in the Spiritual Notes section of the Altoona Mirror each week. This ad consists of the church name, address, phone number, website, and service times. Sponsorship of these ads will be requested via the weekly bulletin.

—Minutes were submitted from the Worship and Music Committee meeting on January 30, 2014.

—A hymn sing was recommended for the first Sunday in April. This will occur with the restart of the Potluck luncheon.

—WELCA will resume meeting in March.

—Mutual Ministry Committee members received Synod guidelines for their committee.

—Participation in the Council meetings by phone was mentioned. Pastor Ed reported that per Bishop Pile this is a permissible action for a meeting.

—May 1, 2014, is the target date for establishing a call committee.

—The Senior luncheon at St. Luke's on February 5, was cancelled due to inclement weather. The March luncheon will take place on Ash Wednesday.


—The secretary's hours were mentioned. The secretary will take comp time for extra hours worked.

—The secretary has been employed for one year and has earned one week of paid vacation.

—Two delegates are needed for Synod Assembly. This year the delegates will be voting on a new bishop.

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.**

March Flower Charts & Bulletins

	Altar	Niches	Bulletins
2			
9			
16			
23			
30			IMO Walter Muller By The Holsingers

March Birthdays

7 Barb Good
 7 Becky Manbeck
 20 Patti Green
 24 Mike Fanelli



Happy Birthday!

Worship Assistants

We are currently scheduling Worship Assistants.
 Please contact the church office to volunteer!
 Thank you to those who have donated their
 time to serving the congregation!

	Altar Guild	Srv. Cord.	Elev. Oper.
Mar	Sylvia Malsatzki	Mike Fanelli	Mike Fanelli
Apr.	Evelyn Holsinger	Bob Holsinger Jr.	Bob Holsinger Jr.
May	Robin Kessler	TBA	TBA

	Greeters	Usher
Mar	Sylvia Malsatzki	Mike Fanelli
Apr.	Evelyn Holsinger	Bob Holsinger Jr.
May	Robin Kessler	TBA



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

Announcements and Upcoming Events

IN THE CASE OF A PASTORAL EMERGENCY,
please contact Pastor Harshbarger at 414-9588, or through
the church office at 944-6835.

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.



W.e.l.c.a.

WELCA resumes on March 15, 2014. For details see the WELCA article on page 6.



CHOIR NOTES

Please join us for choir rehearsal every
Thursday at 7:00 PM.
There is room for everyone!

Easter Flowers are now being ordered. Forms will be located in the weekly bulletin or are downloadable from the church website.



Congratulations to David and Shirley Manbeck on their Valentine's wedding and new memberships at St. James. We're thrilled to have you as part of our church family!

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Council Meeting Mar. 11, 7:00 PM



Worship Assistants are currently being scheduled for 2014. Each position requires just a short amount of time, most no more than just a few extra minutes on Sunday morning. If you think you'd like to serve as a Worship Assistant, please contact the church office.



Pot Luck Luncheon

and



Old Fashioned Hymn Sing

April 6, 2014

Directly Following Worship Service

Submit your favorite hymn(s) via the offering plate, by the sign up sheet on the bulletin board, or by contacting the church office no later than March 30. (if possible include hymnal and hymn number)

Senior Lunch At St. Luke's

St. Luke's Episcopal Church welcomes all to their Senior Lunch, the first Wednesday of each month – September through May.

Lunch begins at 12:15, but come a bit early to socialize and choose your seats.

Lunch is held in the Parish Hall – entrance on 8th Avenue.
On street parking is available as is parking in the vacant lot across the street (providing that the ground is frozen!).

A free will offering will be collected.
All are welcome!

Breakfast With The Pastor

Pastor Ed invites members of St. James to join him for breakfast.

Date: 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month

Time: 8:30 AM

*Place: Unter Uns Club,
1407 Van Buren Avenue*

The breakfast is prepared by our own David and Dana Detwiler.

The menu is varied and the coffee is free.

Come join together for fellowship and conversation!

DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS MONDAY, MARCH 17TH.



SPRING HOUSE CLEANING

...will become a reality at St. James in the next couple of months.

Recently two members of the property committee, Judy Bryan and Bill Dambeck, accompanied Pastor Ed on a tour of the main Church structure and Parish House and decided that a dumpster is in order. The attic of the Parish House is loaded with items that have not been used in years. That area could be labeled a fire trap. The same can be said of some of the stairwells in the Church basement. A lot of work needs to be done before we call for a dumpster.

Storage areas that have items that are being used, or can be used, will be cleaned, inventoried and labeled. However, items that individuals or families have donated that are no longer of service should be claimed and/or marked by those individuals.

We will be getting some unexpected help from the Veteran's Administration. They are going to create three (3) new chapels at the Veteran's Home near Hollidaysburg and some of the items we no longer use will be offered to them for that project.

Many times the Church is referred to as God's house. That designation should include everything from the top of the steeple to the basement stairwells. Let's get together and show God some respect for his house by cleaning it from top to bottom.





Church Picnic

June 8, 2014
Highland Park, Pavilion #1

11:00 AM Communion Worship Service

12:00 PM Meal

Name: _____

Plan to attend # _____

Plan to bring # _____

I can help. Sign me up to do:

Shopping _____

Set up the day of the picnic _____

Transporting Supplies _____

Plan bingo games _____

Cooking/Grilling _____

Clean Up _____

For details on any of these jobs,
please contact Janet Kauffman or the church office.

<p><i>Church Council Members</i></p> <p>Pastor Ed Harshbarger—President Elizabeth Richards—Vice President Donna Wilt—Secretary Lori Savino—Treasurer Judy Bryan Bill Dambeck Maizie Emswiler Barbara Good Bob Hench Janet Kauffman</p>	<p><i>Pastor— Ed Harshbarger, Interim</i> <i>Church Administrative Assistant - Amy Lantz</i> <i>Organist & Choir Director - Pat McConnell</i> <i>Sexton - Howard Walters</i> <i>Treasurer - Lori Savino</i></p>
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Chairpersons are listed in bold at the top of each committee.

Mutual Ministry

***Barb Good**

Donna Foster
*Bob Hench
Joe Yanke

Christian Education/
Social Ministry

***Janet Kauffman**

*Judy Bryan
*Maizie Emswiler
Evelyn Holsinger
Edie Trinks

Property

***Bill Dambeck**

*Judy Bryan
Mike Fanelli
Bob Holsinger
*Barbara Good
*Elizabeth Richards
Earl Walters

By-Laws

*Bill Dambeck
*Maizie Emswiler

Stewardship/Evangelism

***Donna Wilt**

Dana Detwiler
*Janet Kauffman
*Lori Savino

Worship & Music

***Bob Hench**

Dana Detwiler
Donna Foster
Louisa Marshall
Pat McConnell
Phyllis Spinazzola

Finance

***Liz Richards**

*Bill Dambeck
*Lori Savino
Edith Trinks
John Wiederkehr
*Donna Wilt