



Kirchenblatt

Nov/Dec 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.

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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

"But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days"

Micah 5:2

This quote from Micah sets the scene for the upcoming Nativity of our Lord. It may bring to mind the popular Christmas hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem", and mark the place of Christ's birth. It is easily associated with the Christmas season. When we read this verse we tend to focus on the town name, Bethlehem, and not necessarily on the town size, "little".

However, even the prophet Micah acknowledges that Bethlehem is little and perhaps even insignificant in land of Judah. This brought to mind that the size of something does not always matter, it is what God does with and through someone or something that matters. Bethlehem was chosen by God to be the birthplace of the Savior of the World even though it is "little".

Sometimes we get discouraged thinking we are too "little" to make a difference. We feel insignificant in the great scheme of things at times, but in this reading we are reminded that God uses the big and the small to do the work of the Gospel. No one, no ministry, no number of attendees is ever too small for God to do great things with. The mustard seed, the widow's mite, the town of Bethlehem, little things that could easily be overlooked, used as examples of great ministry in the world and in the kingdom of God. We may think that what we contribute is just something little, but for God any ministry for the sake of the Gospel is huge.

Peace,

Pastor Eli

Heavenly God, we lift before you all members of this congregation. We especially ask your blessing upon those who have been given the responsibility of finding a new pastor. Grant wisdom and right judgment to those who serve on our Call Committee. Guide them to the one who you have chosen to lead us. Grant them the vision to clearly see the leader who is to come among us. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior. 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
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.

The Season of Advent

Advent starts the new church year and is a time of waiting and preparation for the birth of Christ. Wreaths were first associated with Advent in the sixteenth century in the German Lutheran Church.

The Colors of Advent:

Traditionally, the colors of Advent are lavender and rose.

Lavender symbolizes repentance as well as being the traditional color of royalty—demonstrating the anticipation and preparation for the coming of the King. In recent years, blue has been substituted for lavender to help distinguish between Advent and Lent.

Rose is used to help shift the Advent season from repentance to one of celebration.

The Meaning of the Candles:

Candle 1: Lavender or blue, this candle symbolizes hope.

Candle 2: Lavender or blue, this candle symbolizes peace.

Candle 3: Rose, this candle symbolizes joy.

Candle 4: Lavender or blue, this candle symbolizes love.

Some wreaths contain a fifth, white candle that is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. This is the Christ candle.



News & Notes From Council

—A council meeting was held on November 18th.

—The agenda was adopted as presented.

—Council officers were elected. Mark Hoover, President; Shirley Manbeck, Vice President; and Donna Wilt, Secretary. The Treasurer position will be filled at a later time.

—It was noted that the meeting minutes from the congregational meeting from 2013 had been located. There was one correction to the congregational meeting minutes of 2014. The Council meeting minutes of October 21, 2014, were accepted as presented.

—Pastor Eli presented an oral report. She reported that much of her time was spent on conflict resolutions. She also reported that she will begin the Christmas season home visitations soon, as per her covenant with St. James.

—It was reported that there has been no response from Elizabeth Richards regarding the congregational decision to remove her from Council and Committees.

—An abbreviated report of the checkbook was given by the church secretary due to the resignation of the bookkeeper at the beginning of the month.

—It was noted that a new Treasurer and/or bookkeeper is needed.

—A motion passed to transfer \$6,000 from the Wienken account to the Investment Savings Bank account to cover expenses.

—It was decided that the church secretary would write checks for regular bills as they come in, and notify the check signers.

—The role and duties of the Finance Committee were discussed. It was noted that John Wiederkehr has agreed to maintain his position on this committee, and that Jean Bickel has agreed to help as well. Betty Boslet will also serve.

—Pastor Eli recommended calling a Finance meeting to open discussions regarding the investments, handling the checkbook, and a professional audit.

—Maizie Emswiler addressed the new Council and brought them up-to-date on ongoing issues.

—It was discussed that WELCA is handling the planning of the Allegheny Chorale concert, and there will be a cookie reception afterward.

—It was reported that the heat is working in the parish house, and that the air conditioners have been removed from the windows.

—It was reported that Virgil Cannarsa recommended a damp chaser be installed in the organ console. A motion was made to do this. The motion carried.

—It was reported that WELCA will host the Synod-wide annual WELCA meeting next year here at St. James.

—And update was given on the Call Committee.

—It was noted that another congregational meeting will need to be held once the Finance Committee revises the budget.

—Council members selected which committees they would serve on for the year.

—There was a suggestion to move the Council Meetings to a Sunday after church. The next meeting will take place on Sunday, December 14.

—It was noted that there was one recommendation for a new secretary.

—It was decided that the secretary position will remain at 20 hours per week, and will pay \$11 per hour.

—A motion was made to retroactively raise the current secretary's wages to \$11 per hour beginning November 1. The motion carried.


—Mom's Club requested to use the church on December 20, for their Christmas party. This request was approved.

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.**

*Nobody can go back and
start a new beginning,
but anyone can start today
and make a new ending.*

-Maria Robinson

December Flower Charts & Bulletins

	Altar	Niches	Bulletins
7			
14			IHO Erikka Wilt and Haley Mayo By Donna Wilt and Family
21	RESERVED		
24			IMO Our Family By The Good Family
28			

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!

Nov. & Dec. Birthdays

11/4 David Bickel
 11/5 Edith Trinks
 11/12 Glenn Dell
 11/12 Adalyn Wilkins
 11/13 Elizabeth Roudabush
 11/22 Linda Fanelli
 11/30 Janis Beaulieu
 12/11 Erikka Wilt
 12/24 Charles Green
 12/29 Marian Holsinger
 12/30 Kaylee Manbeck

Happy Birthday!

	Altar Guild	Srv. Cord.	Elev. Oper.
Dec.	Sylvia/Shirley	TBA	TBA
Jan.	TBA	TBA	TBA
Feb.	TBA	TBA	TBA

	Greeters	Usher
Dec.	Maizie Emswiler	TBA
Jan.	TBA	TBA
Feb.	TBA	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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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.

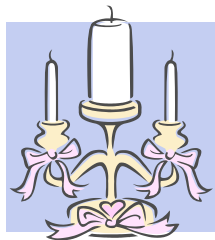
Christmas Party planned for December 13th at U.S. Hotel at Noon. All ladies are welcome to come and enjoy the lunch, fellowship and entertainment. Deadline for reservations December 6th.

Reminder for the Allegheny Chorale will be held at St. James on December 7th at 3:00pm. Light refreshments will be served.

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WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT

Erikka L. Wilt will be married to Cory P. Brown in St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church on Saturday, December 27, 2014 at 2 p.m. Prayers for the newlyweds as they begin their new lives together.



Congratulations!

Thank You

Dear Ladies of Needles For The Needy,

Thank you so much for showing kindness to our residents. Your talent shows in the beauty of the lap robes that you made for us. Cold weather is coming. Even though the home is nice and warm, as we get older our blood doesn't move as it used to, the residents are always saying they are cold. These blankets will be perfect for just that time.

On behalf of the residents, I would like to say "Thank you, and God bless you greatly."

Yours in Christ,
Barb Conrad, Activity Director
ACNC

Thank You

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:

FINANCE MEETING	MONDAY, DEC. 8, 2:00 PM
COUNCIL MEETING	SUNDAY, DECE. 14, FOLLOWING WORSHIP



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



W.e.l.c.a.
Christmas Party
Saturday, December 13
12:00 PM at the US Hotel

POT LUCK LUNCHEON

The last potluck luncheon was a huge success with approximately 30 people in attendance.

The next potluck luncheon will be Sunday, December 21, following worship. The main course will include pork, sauerkraut, and mashed potatoes. Bring a covered dish or a dessert and stay for great food and fellowship. You don't want to miss this event!

The Council Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 14, immediately following services.

Allegheny Chorale
featuring
The Blair County Brassworks

*A Season for
Brass and Song*

Sunday, December 7, 2014 at 3PM
St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church, Altoona

Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 7PM
First Presbyterian Church, Tyrone

Deborah Estright, Director

Free to the Public 2014

DEADLINE FOR THE JAN. ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS MON., DEC. 15.



The Allegheny Synod 25,000 Can Challenge

**Advent
(Nov. 30) –**



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

The Synod is initiating the **25,000 Can Challenge** to help us work together to help those in need. I invite and challenge the congregations of the Allegheny Synod to work together to gather 25,000 cans of food, food items, or other necessities to support our local food banks and agencies in these Allegheny hills and valleys. For the 10 weeks that run from the season of Advent to Super Bowl Sunday (Nov. 30 – Feb. 1) let us work together to gather a mountain of items to combat hunger in our region.

To participate, we invite you to gather canned food, other food items, or other necessities for a food bank or service agency of your choice. What you gather will be directed to those agencies in your community that you chose. In this way we are working together, but also helping people in our own communities. You can also gather in conjunction with your holiday food drives, the Souper Bowl of Caring, or other collections you are doing at this time of year.

We just ask that you let us know at the synod office how much you have gathered so that we can keep up with a total for the synod.

Your Brother In Christ,

+Bishop Michael L. Rhyne

God's Work, Our Hands

Stories of Faith In Action

GENTLY GROWING A CONGREGATION

A birthday, a high test grade, a new driver's license — Pastor Newman Chu-sheng Chiu uses all these occasions to gather young, Mandarin-speaking students for a party and prayer.

Newman and his wife, Pastor Grace Chiu, are mission developers for Glory Lutheran Church, a new ministry supported with help from Mission Support in Torrance, Calif. They meet the young adults they serve by spending time on college and university campuses in Orange and Los Angeles counties, chatting with passing Chinese students who are thousands of miles from home and family.

Sometimes they bring along Chinese food for an impromptu picnic, or gather at Starbucks for coffee and a prayer. And for birthdays and other milestones, they ask students to invite friends to celebrate.

"We can have 15 or 20 young people eating, singing, talking and making new friends. It's so happy!" says Newman. "It doesn't matter what the reason for the gathering is, the one thing we never miss is the message of God."

For some young people, that message can be new. God's story, introduced during the informal campus get-togethers, is the primary focus on Friday nights and Sunday afternoons, when students from all five campuses meet at Glory for Bible study, prayer and worship.

About 70 students have been baptized in the five years since the beginning of Glory Lutheran, a congregation of the ELCA Southwest California Synod. While many have returned to Taiwan, Hong Kong or mainland China, others stay.

Committed to gently, gradually nurturing these young believers, Newman says, "The congregation will develop naturally. I can tell that God is raising up a new group of people."

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

Daily Readings and Prayers
<p>December 1—Ephesians 1:3-14, Psalm 148 Heavenly Trinity, to You we bow in adoration for Your majestic work of planning and carrying out our salvation. Amen.</p>
<p>December 2—Genesis 2:15-25, Psalm 128 Lord of life and love and relationships, fill our relationships especially our marriages, with Your kind of love—engaging, giving, and forgiving. Amen.</p>
<p>December 3—Genesis 3:1-9, Psalm 93 Thank You, Lord, for staying engaged with us. Keep us faithful in our callings for Jesus' sake. Amen.</p>
<p>December 4—Genesis 15:1-11, Psalm 119:169-176 Surprise us, Lord, with Your constant desire and ability to bless, even in our doubts and difficulties. Amen.</p>
<p>December 5—Genesis 22:1-19, Psalm 50:1-15 God of Abraham and God of Isaac, we praise You that You are the God of the living, so that we may live in You and in Your son, Jesus. Amen.</p>
<p>December 6—Genesis 39, Psalm 1 Lord God, when I am inclined to give in to evil, cause me to recall Your Son's faithful living, dying, and rising for me. Amen.</p>
<p>December 7—Genesis 50:1-21, Psalm 79 God of forgiveness, we praise You that Your love has engaged with us in Jesus, so that we can live as Your agents of forgiveness. Amen.</p>
<p>December 8—Exodus 3:1-17, Psalm 40 Loving Lord, don't let me be content with life as usual. Take me by the hand on a journey that encounters people who need your love. Amen.</p>
<p>December 9—Exodus 12:21-42, Psalm 78:41-55 Lord of freedom, help us join You in Your mission of setting people free to live as Your children. Amen.</p>
<p>December 10—Exodus 32:1-20, Psalm 106:1-12 Lord, make us strong intercessors for those who need the grace we have so abundantly received in Jesus. Amen.</p>

<p>December 11—Leviticus 16:11-22, Psalm 106:32-48</p> <p>Blessed Father, how can we thank You enough for the atoning blood of your son? Keep us living always for You, knowing we are forgiven. Amen.</p>
<p>December 12—Numbers 11:16-32, Psalm 74</p> <p>Holy Spirit let me be an agent of Your life, love, and forgiveness to those who look for signs of Your presence. In Jesus' name. Amen.</p>
<p>December 13—Numbers 21:4-9, Psalm 27</p> <p>Jesus, You embraced the cross so that Your accused death might be the opening to life. Draw all to look to You for that life. Amen.</p>
<p>December 14—Deuteronomy 6:4-25, Psalm 48</p> <p>Ever-searching Lord, guide us to live in You so that all our actions, words, and desires would point children and others to Your loving heart. Amen.</p>
<p>December 15—Numbers 14:1-20, Psalm 62</p> <p>Gracious, choosing God, we praise You for having made us Your own, choosing us through Jesus as Your children and priests. Amen.</p>
<p>December 16—2 Samuel 11:22-12:15, Psalm 51</p> <p>Lord, do not turn away because of my sins, but for Jesus' sake forgive me so I may be engaged in Your mission of claiming this world as Your kingdom. Amen.</p>
<p>December 17—Song of Solomon 2, Psalm 45</p> <p>Lord Jesus, how passionate is Your love for us! Make us hungry for that love, so that, having tasted, we can also pass it on to those around us. For Your names' sake. Amen.</p>
<p>December 18—1 Kings 18:20-40, Psalm 149</p> <p>Dangerous but good God, teach us to walk humbly in Your ways and to serve as Your witnesses in our daily relationships and activities. For Jesus' sake. Amen.</p>
<p>December 19—2 Kings 13:14-21, Psalm 23</p> <p>Lord God, You give life, even to dry, dusty bones. By Your gracious Word, impart to me that life in order to share Your life with the people I live with the people I live with day by day. Amen.</p>
<p>December 20—Esther 4, Psalm 37:25-40</p> <p>Lord of all, through Esther, You spared the Jews for the sake of the coming Messiah. Use my words and actions in witness to friends and family. Amen.</p>

December 21—2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, Psalm 145

King Jesus, don't let me forget Your humble beginnings. You have come to rule also in the hearts of people like me. Amen.

December 22—Luke 1:26-38, Psalm 19

Heavenly Father, You engaged Mary and empowered her to respond in faith. Give us the same faith-filled response to Your call. For Jesus' sake we pray. Amen.

December 23—Isaiah 7:10-14, Psalm 86

Gracious Lord, turn my stubborn heart in amazement, thanksgiving, and praise to Your promises, fulfilled in Your Son, Jesus. Amen.

December 24—Matthew 1:18-25, Psalm 89:1-29

Heavenly Father, You guided Joseph through the worst of times so decisions would honor You. Bless us in our celebration of Jesus incarnation. Amen.

December 25—John 1:1-14, Psalm 43

Blessed Jesus, as You have enfleshed and spoken the Word for us, enable us to communicate well, speaking and acting creatively to affirm Your love for others. Amen.

December 26—Acts 7:51-60, Psalm 35

Lord Jesus, make us bold and courageous so we do not act out of fear, but out of love for You when called on to testify to Your lordship. Amen.

December 27—John 21:20-25, Psalm 102

Lord Jesus, center of all Scripture, we thank You for the writing of St. John and ask for his boldness and clarity as we communicate Your truth to others. Amen.

December 28—Matthew 2:13-18, Psalm 16

Gracious Lord Jesus, we praise You that You willingly chose to drink the cup of suffering so that Your children might live. Amen.

December 29—Matthew 4:1-11, Psalm 18:1-22

Lord Jesus, thank You for engaging Satan faithfully. Enable us to live for You in repentance and joy, keeping the Father's will. Amen.

December 30—Matthew 4:18-25, Psalm 111

Engaging Lord Jesus, help us to love unconditionally, so others get a little taste of what Your life is like. Amen.

December 31—Galatians 3:23-29, Psalm 107:31-43

Lord Jesus, You have named us free and alive in Baptism. Keep up alert to all the ways we may serve you in loving others today. Amen.

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

*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

Property

***Bill Dambeck**

Bob Holsinger
Shirley Manbeck

Finance

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