



Kirchenblatt

October 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

"I live for those around me, For those who love me true, For the heaven whose smile has found me and awaits my spirit too: For the wrong that needs resistance, For the cause that lacks assistance, For the future in the distance and the good that I can do." Thomas Guthrie (Scottish Preacher)

W.E. Sangster once said, "I am not satisfied to live, I want something to live for." The question is posed in many different ways, "Is life worth living", "What am I living for", "What is the meaning of life" etc...but for those who follow Christ the answer is always the same, we live for others. That is what Guthrie was saying in the above quote.

Christians do live for something, they live for the gospel and the gospel tells us to put God and others first. If we live only for ourselves and our selfish gains and motives then we will ultimately find that life starts to lose it's meaning because then we will never be satisfied. However, when we ask the question, "What can we do for others", then our lives have meaning. This is not only true in our personal lives but in the life of the Church. As a church we should not be satisfied to just exist (to live) we are called to have something to live for, and that is the gospel as well.

Think about St. James Lutheran Church, can we plug ourselves into Guthrie's quote or are we satisfied to simply exist. Is the love of God for the world the first and foremost thing we are concerned with, is that the thing that informs our decisions as a church? Our lives as human beings as well as the life of the church will take on new meaning when and if we live for those around us.

Peace,

Pastor Eli Hess

Gracious God, save and defend your whole Church, purchased with the precious blood of Christ. Give it pastors and ministers filled with your Spirit and strengthen it through the Word and holy sacraments. Make it perfect in love and in all good works. Establish it in the faith delivered to the saints. Sanctify and unite your people in the entire world, that one holy Church may bear witness to you, the creator, and redeemer of all. 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

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....

Pastor Will Osman's father, Ed Osman, will have heart valve replacement surgery.

Special Condolences To...

Carolyn Feather and Family on the loss of her husband, Gary.

Kay Wilkins and Family on the loss of her husband, Bob.

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.

Financial Reports

CHARITABLE DONATIONS

October 1, 2013 - August 31, 2014

MEMBER SPECIAL GIVING

Allegheny Synod - Designated	\$1,195.00
Blanket Sunday	\$77.00
Harvest Home	\$70.00
Mission	\$165.00
White Gift	\$105.00
Malaria Campaign	\$368.00
Hollidaysburg Fire Victims	\$191.00

BENEVOLENCE

Allegheny Synod - Designated Support	\$3,465.00
ELCA National Church	\$1.00
Haller Earnings - ELCA Disaster Response	\$2,018.23
World Mission	\$1,000.00
Gettysburg Seminary	\$200.00
Camp Sequanota	\$1,500.00

INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY

August 1, 2014 - August 31, 2014

INCOME

Bank Interest	\$0.08
Contributions	
General	\$2,842.00
Designated	\$251.00
Special	\$60.00
Wienken Transfer	\$6,000.00
Est Dorothy Mann	\$14,178.80
A Mann Scholarship Interest	\$275.74
Insurance Reimbursement	\$969.86
	<hr/>
	\$24,577.48

EXPENSES

Pastoral Administration	\$1,729.12
Worship & Music	\$558.62
Office	\$1,112.05
Custodial & Property	\$5,750.12
Christian Education	\$45.00
Transfer to Wienken	\$14,178.80
	<hr/>
	\$23,373.71

August 2013

Contributions \$2,426.00 Average Weekly Attendance 31

August 2014

Contributions \$3,093.00 Average Weekly Attendance 29

News & Notes From Council

—A council meeting was held on September 16, 2014.

—The agenda was adopted with four additions.

—The Council Minutes from the August 12th meeting were filed as presented. The Special Meeting minutes of August 28, 2014 were filed as presented.

—Bob Hench's resignation from Council and Committees was discussed. He will still lector and sing in the choir.

—As per the special meeting of September 7, 2014, Council elected Evelyn Holsinger to fill the position left vacant by Bob Hench's resignation for the remaining two months of the church year.

—Pastor Harshbarger's final report was submitted to Council for review.

—It was noted that due to the secretary assuming many of the things that the pastor did has resulted in three extra hours in August and four and half extra hours so far in September. A motion was made to pay the secretary for her time over her regular twenty hours per week (comp time). The motion passed.

—There was discussion regarding possible volunteer helpers for some of the office duties and the secretary's duties and schedule.

—Pastor Eli addressed the Council regarding the vacancy covenant between her and St. James that went into affect on September 1, 2014. Full terms are listed in the special meeting minutes of August 28, 2014.

—The Treasurer's Report was submitted for review.

—Income and expenses were discussed.

—It was noted that Stewardship Sunday did not occur due to Pastor Ed's resignation.

—The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

—Finance Committee minutes from August 18, 2014, were submitted and were filed as presented.

—The next Finance meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 16. This is the budget planning meeting.

—The potluck luncheon with Bishop Rhyne was discussed.

—Oktoberfest was cancelled for this year.

—The issue of piano and organ tuning is being sent back to the Worship and Music Committee.

—It was suggested that Worship and Music assume the responsibility of scheduling worship assistants. It was noted that this committee is currently short on members due to Bob Hench's resignation and Donna Foster's surgery. Pastor Knauss noted that these positions shouldn't need much structure as the congregation is very small. Some of these jobs should be filled by those attending Sunday morning.

—Pastor Knauss discussed the call process, the congregational survey, and the ministry site profile. It was noted that St. James needs to form a Call Committee and complete the Ministry Site Profile before they can proceed with the process.

—Annual committee reports, 2014/2015 budget proposal, and last year's congregational minutes are all due to the church office by Tuesday, October 14, so they can be prepared for this year's congregational meeting.

—Five council terms are ending, two of which are not eligible to serve another term. A nominating committee was formed to find new people willing to serve on Council.

—The Thanksgiving service was discussed due to the fact that St. James must submit a request for supply pastors. It was decided that because of low attendance and contributions, this service would be cancelled.


—There was discussion on the Think Tank meeting and ideas that resulted. For full details on this discussion, please contact the church office for a copy of the official council minutes.

—It was noted that the Sunday service on September 7, did not run smoothly. It was also mentioned that it seemed most people in the congregation were not aware of the problems.

—Elizabeth Richards suggested that each Council person take on two weeks of overseeing the service so that some of these problems are avoided in the future. Bill Dambeck noted that things do eventually get done.

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.**

October Flower Charts & Bulletins

	Altar	Niches	Bulletins
5			IMO Charles Zorger By Grace Zorger
12			
19	IMO Marian Mueller By The Holsingers		
26	IMO Anna Yanke and Martha Yanke By Joe Yanke		

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!

October Birthdays

13	Dana Mayo
14	Elizabeth Richards
23	Shawn Wilkins
24	Debra Morgan
25	Gladys Moyer
26	Michael Savino
29	Gabrielle Tyler

Happy Birthday!

	Altar Guild	Srv. Cord.	Elev. Oper.
Oct.	Sylvia M.	TBA	TBA
Nov.	Evelyn Holsinger	TBA	TBA
Dec.	Sylvia M./TBA	TBA	TBA

	Greeters	Usher
Oct.	Barb Good, Judy Bryan	TBA
Nov.	Elizabeth Richards, Barb Good	TBA
Dec.	Barb Good	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.



The Allegheny Synodical Women's Organization Newsletter was just released hot off the press and it announces their 28th Annual Convention will be held at ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH, ALTOONA, PA on May 2, 2015!!! We are on the map!



The regular October WELCA meeting is cancelled due to the extra time and effort preparing for the Reduce, Renew and Rejoice Sale. The next scheduled meeting is November 15, 2014.

Other WELCA events for the remainder of 2014 will be our November Homebound Visitation, The Allegheny Chorale Concert and reception, and finally a Christmas Celebration at the US Hotel in Hollidaysburg with entertainment and games. Join us....everyone is welcome!

Thank You

I would like to thank the congregation of Saint James Lutheran Church for the recent scholarship money I have received. I am currently engrossed in nursing classes and clinicals at Conemaugh Hospital in Johnstown. The funds I have received from you will aid me throughout my fall and spring semesters and will allow me to explore the field of medicine further and help those who cannot care for themselves. I have been floating in and out of the hospital which has allowed me to directly help the community. These are tangible benefits that the community receives, and by helping me, you are contributing. I hope all is going well and I will be back as soon as possible to see you.

With much thanks,
Elliott Wilt

Thank you for selecting my brother and I as recipients of the Church's scholarship(s). My brother and I enjoy visiting with all of you and helping out as much as we can during the weeks and months that we are not at school. My brother and I have spent all our lives at this Church and with this congregation. This Church and all of you who worship here have always and will always hold a special place in our hearts.

The scholarship money will help me with my monetary costs of attending school this year. As I finish my college years, I am already in the process of taking the next great step in my life: law school. I am eager to move on to law school, but this is only possible because of all the help this congregation has been the past four years.

Again, thank you for selecting my bother and I as the scholarship recipients. He and I, as well as our family are extremely grateful. Take care until I see you all soon.

Very Sincerely and Respectfully,

Ethan V. Wilt

Thank You

A Good Time To Be The Church

“A Good Time To Be The Church” is a book by former ELCA Bishop H. George Anderson. In 1997 he wrote that Lutherans were emerging from their ethnic isolation and uniting as one force. Lutherans joined the ranks of the churches of the mainline denominations that some said were going down the tubes.

According to Bishop Anderson, there were three forces that pushed these mainline church bodies—including the Lutheran church—to the margins. First, the use of television and other media spurred the growth of non-mainstream churches. Second, many Americans opted out of the organized church, becoming “believers, not believers.” The final great change was the arrival of other major world religions.

Today we face many other challenges: mobility of families, job insecurity, and changing family dynamics such as two working parents. Additionally, there are now other Sunday activities that the church must compete with for attendance.

Historically, there has always been unrest in the church. Every time we think we’re standing on the mountain enjoying the view, we fall off and land back in the valley. Henry Kramer, a Dutch expert on mission some sixty-seven years ago said, “Strictly speaking, one ought to say that the church is always in a state of crisis, and its greatest shortcoming is that it is only occasionally aware of it.” Do we become complacent in the good times, allowing the strife to slip in unnoticed?

One thing Bishop Rhyne made very clear on Sunday after our dinner is that through all the tough times, only one thing is certain: Christ is the head of the church and He is in charge. St. James is at a crossroads, just as the church as a whole has been many times over the centuries. It is now time to take a look at ourselves and decide what Christ wants us to do.

What are we going to do? Will we need to make changes? As Bishop Rhyne said, these are scary questions—change is scary. But perhaps to make progress we need to place our faith and trust in Jesus and allow the Holy Spirit to guide our decisions. It has been suggested to get together as a congregation to explore all our options. We must prayerfully consider all of our options before we gather.

One thing I know for sure, God has presented us with a challenge. He has also given us the power to meet this challenge. We all need to pray for guidance, listen to one another, and encourage each other even when we disagree. God, through the Holy Spirit, will do the rest.

As Bishop Anderson said, “This is a good time to be the church!”

In Christ,

Maizie Emsilwer, Acting Council President

God's Work, Our Hands

Stories of Faith In Action

DANCING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

On a sunny day in Bellville South, South Africa, a sea of women, young and old, are dancing and singing – full of life. The lyrics “I dance ‘cause I love; dance ‘cause I dream; dance ‘cause I’ve had enough; dance to stop the screams” ring out. Among them is a young woman from the United States, Abby Henderson, smiling and caught up in this one-day celebration of women’s empowerment that she helped organize.

**“I have begun to learn to see
God in all the heartaches,
as well as the joy.”**

ABBY HENDERSON

Abby is serving here through the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program, where she is working at the invitation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in South Africa, learning about their challenges and joys. Along the way, she’s had an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of young women through teaching dance.

In Bellville South, the challenges of hunger, homelessness, unemployment, rape, drug abuse and lack of education are widespread for women and men. “One of the most difficult parts of this year has been learning to see God in moments where I would be tempted to say God is not present. God is present everywhere, always,” Abbey says. “I have begun to learn to see God in all the heartaches, as well as the joy.” Young adults serving around the world are supported by contributions from family and friends, ELCA members, congregations and the ELCA churchwide organization through Mission Support.

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

October 1—Psalm 124, Psalm 130

Dear Lord, thanks that in Jesus, I have been forgiven, and that on Judgment Day, I will stand innocent before you. Amen.

October 2—Genesis 4:3-12, Psalm 119:161-168

Dear Lord, grant that I may live this day giving thanks that there is forgiveness for me because Jesus has done well on my behalf. In His name. Amen.

October 3—Exodus 40:34-38, Psalm 5

Dear Lord, may I use my freedom in Jesus to glorify Him and help my neighbor. Amen.

October 4—Numbers 16:23-34, Psalm 59

Dear Lord, I give thanks that on Judgment Day, because of Jesus, I will be given eternal life. Amen.

October 5—Daniel 3:8-30, Psalm 21

Dear Lord, may I be faithful and use my gifts to point others to Jesus. Amen.

October 6—John 11:17-44, Psalm 23

Dear Lord, having seen Your love in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, may I faithfully believe You will always do what is right for me. Amen.

October 7—Matthew 4:1-11, Psalm 81:8-16

Dear Lord, may the field of my heart be unfertile soil for the seeds of doubt sown by Satan. Instead may I hold fast to Jesus. Amen.

October 8—Matthew 5:21-26, Psalm 7

Dear Lord, may all Christians reflect the forgiveness they have been given by the Savior's sacrifice. Amen.

October 9—Matthew 7:6-11, Psalm 103

Dear Lord, having received Your gift of salvation, may I believe all You do is for my benefit. Amen.

October 10—Matthew 18:15-20, Psalm 133

Dear Lord, I give thanks that Jesus came for me when I was still a sinner. For His sacrifice that rebuilds the broken bridge between heaven and earth, I praise you. Amen.

October 11—Matthew 26:36-46, Psalm 13

Dear Jesus, You became the whipping boy for humanity. Help me to be grateful for what You endured for me. Amen.

October 12—Matthew 27:62-66, Psalm 86

Dear Lord, I give thanks that You disposed of the priests' plan and have used it to provide proof of the resurrection. I ask that You would do the same in our age. In Jesus' name. Amen.

October 13—Joshua 24:15-28, Psalm 105:1-8

Dear Lord, may my home and national always welcome You. Send Your Holy Spirit so all may know that "we will serve the Lord." Amen.

October 14—John 11:45-53, Psalm 2

Dear Lord, today I ask that rulers and other religions may see there is salvation only in Jesus. Grant courage and faithfulness to all those who are persecuted for the Savior's sake. Amen.

October 15—John 13:1-20, Psalm 25

Dear Lord, wash me and make me clean. Amen.

October 16—John 18:28-38, Psalm 136:1-9

Dear Lord Jesus, I give thanks that You have given me citizenship in Your kingdom. May all I do and say give evidence of my appreciation. Amen.

October 17—John 20:1-18, Psalm 42

Dear Lord, I give thanks that the risen Redeemer is both a reality and my Savior. Amen.

October 18—Luke 7:36-50, Psalm 90

Dear Lord, like Luke's unnamed woman, may I be brought to repentance and be given forgiveness. Amen.

October 19—Romans 10:8-13, Psalm 67

Dear Lord, beginning now, bless me as I share the saving Good News of Your great grace. Amen.

October 20—Romans 12:9-21, Psalm 119:33-40

Dear Lord, Jesus has redeemed me of my sin. Now may I, as much as in me lies, live in harmony with others. Amen.

October 21—2 Corinthians 5:1-10, Psalm 18:46-50

Dear Lord, may I always be thankful that Jesus has rescued and redeemed me. Amen.

October 22—Galatians 1:3-10, Psalm 73-23-28

Dear Lord, let my ears hear Your truth and my heart believe in Your Son. When others offer a different gospel, may I be both deaf and blind. Amen.

October 23—Galatians 6:1-5, Psalm 20

Dear Lord, I give thanks that through the Law I am called to repentance and in the Gospel I am forgiven. Amen.

October 24—James 1:19-27, Psalm 12

Dear Lord, may my tongue, which speaks your praise, also speak well of others. Amen.

October 25—James 2:14-26, Psalm 69:13-21

Dear Lord, may I always live a life that shows I am thankful for the salvation Jesus has won. Amen.

October 26—1 Peter 3:13-17, Psalm 5

Dear Lord, in times of peace or persecution, may I always be blessed in making a confession about You and the salvation. You have won. Amen.

October 27—1 John 1:5-10, Psalm 32

Dear Lord, we both know I am a sinner, but only You could take away that sin. For Your grace, I am grateful. Amen.

October 28—Revelation 3:15-22, Psalm 24

Dear Lord, I give thanks for Your call to faith and forgiveness. May I be zealous for You. Amen.

October 29—Revelation 22:17-21, Psalm 33

Dear Lord, grant that Your people may always know and hold fast to Your Word, which is truth. Amen.

October 30—1 Corinthians 15:12-20, Psalm 122

Dear Lord, truly there are people in this world who ought to be pitied. We pray that those who do not know Jesus as Savior may be brought to faith. Amen.

October 31—Romans 8:31-37, Psalm 62

Dear Lord, may my faith always be based on Your grace as shown in Calvary's cross and Jesus' empty tomb. Amen.

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.



CHOIR NOTES

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 21, 7:00 PM



W.e.l.c.a.

8:30 AM

Saturday, November 15

POT LUCK LUNCHEON

Watch for more details.

Reduce Renew Rejoice

Cha Ching, Cha Ching.....that's the sound of the cash register adding up the dollars and coins during the RRR indoor sale on Friday and Saturday mornings, November 7 and 8 from 8:30-12:30.

We have just started arranging and pricing the items which will take another week or two. We are featuring Holiday items but will have a variety of things including furniture and old church treasures from years gone by. Tell your friends to come to our big event.

It is recommended that a portion of the proceeds go to the Big Brother/Big Sister organization. Watch the Sunday bulletins for further updates.

SAVE THE DATE

The congregational meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2014. It is important that all members of St. James attend this meeting.

Please note that the Council Meeting will take place on the third Tuesday of each month.

DEADLINE FOR THE NOV. ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS WED., OCT. 15.

Church Council Members

—President
Maizie Emswiler—Vice President
Donna Wilt—Secretary
Lori Savino—Treasurer
Judy Bryan
Bill Dambeck
Barbara Good
Evelyn Holsinger
Janet Kauffman
Elizabeth Richards

*Pastor— Pastor Eli Hess, Vacancy Pastor
Church Administrative Assistant - Amy Lantz
Organist & Choir Director - Pat McConnell
Financial Secretary/Bookkeeper - Colleen Garlick
Custodian—Shirley Manbeck*

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

Mutual Ministry

***Barb Good**

Donna Foster
Evelyn Holsinger
Joe Yanke

By-Laws

*Bill Dambeck
*Maizie Emswiler
Edith Trinks

Christian Education/

Social Ministry

***Janet Kauffman**

*Judy Bryan
*Maizie Emswiler
Evelyn Holsinger
Edie Trinks

Stewardship/Evangelism

***Donna Wilt**

Dana Detwiler
*Janet Kauffman
*Lori Savino

Worship & Music

Dana Detwiler
Donna Foster
Louisa Marshall
Pat McConnell
Phyllis Spinazzola

Property

***Bill Dambeck**

*Judy Bryan
Bob Holsinger
*Barbara Good
*Elizabeth Richards

Finance

***Liz Richards**

*Bill Dambeck
*Lori Savino
Kim Vandevander
John Wiederkehr
*Donna Wilt