



# Kirchenblatt

September 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](mailto:stjamesaltoona@verizon.net) Website: [www.stjamesaltoona.org](http://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 From The Pastor

From the Vacancy Pastor:

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the congregation of St. James. My name is Reverend Elizabeth (ELI) Hess and I will be serving as your Vacancy Pastor. Ordained in 1997, I have served in the Allegheny Synod for my entire ministry. I first served at the joint parish of Yellow Springs and Geeseytown from 1997-2008. I now serve Trinity Lutheran in the Juniata section of Altoona (2008-present). I originally grew up in the Washington D.C. area (Fairfax, Va.) and attended Roanoke College in southern Virginia. After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Medieval History I attended Gettysburg Seminary in Gettysburg Pa. While in Seminary I did two internships, one in Glen Rock Pa and one in Leeds, England.

My life outside the church consists mostly of the care of my many and various animals. One of my passions is horses and horse showing. I also enjoy hiking, biking, and spending time outdoors with my dogs.

My contact information is as follows: Work Phone- 814-943-3972 Home Phone- 814-695-8346.

I look forward to our time together as you continue in your journey for the best future ministry of St. James Lutheran Church.

Peace,

Reverend Elizabeth Hess  
Trinity Lutheran Church

*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....***

Please keep Pastor Bob Way's mother-in-law, ***Sylvia Mountain***, in prayer as she is had to have surgery following a fall.

Please also keep ***Pastor Denny and Nancy Doebl's daughter*** in prayer as she is recuperating from a stroke.

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

### **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

# Financial Reports

## CHARITABLE DONATIONS October 1, 2013 - July 31, 2014

### MEMBER SPECIAL GIVING

Allegheny Synod - Designated	\$1,090.00
Blanket Sunday	\$77.00
Harvest Home	\$70.00
Mission	\$135.00
White Gift	\$105.00
Malaria Campaign	\$368.00
Hollidaysburg Fire Victims	\$156.00

### 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 July 1, 2014 - July 31, 2014

### INCOME

Bank Interest	\$0.06
Contributions	
General	\$2,978.00
Designated	\$180.00
Special	\$35.00
Insurance Reim-	
bursement	\$1,807.27
	<hr/>
	\$5,000.33

### EXPENSES

Pastoral Administration	\$1,626.88
Worship & Music	\$811.12
Office	\$1,472.87
Custodial & Property	\$884.95
	<hr/>
	\$4,795.82

### July 2013

Contributions \$2,,819.00 Average Weekly Attendance 34

### July 2014

Contributions \$3,158.00 Average Weekly Attendance 33

## News & Notes From Council

—A council meeting was held on August 12, 2014.

—The agenda was adopted as presented.

—The Council Minutes from the June 10th meeting were filed as presented.

—The Treasurer's Report was submitted for review. The spreadsheets will be filed for review.

—An error was noted on the spreadsheets for July. This had been corrected for the August spreadsheets.

—Figures for Kooman accounts were presented and will be discussed at the committee level.

—Attendance and contributions for this last quarter were discussed and compared with last year's numbers.

—It was noted that there were no recent withdrawals from the Wienken account.

—The Pastor's Report for July and August were submitted and accepted.

—Pastor Harshbarger announced that he would not be extending his interim covenant with St. James in September. He would not return after his vacation in August.

—Maizie Emswiler, as Council Vice President, would assume the head of Council as Pastor Harshbarger had been Council President.

—Finance Committee minutes from meetings on July 14th and July 27th were submitted.

—It was noted that budget requests are due.

—Three scholarship applications were submitted.

—The possibility of using an outside auditor was discussed.

—The potluck luncheon was scheduled to coincide with the visit of Bishop-Elect Rhyne. Communion will also take place on September 14th when the new Bishop is presiding. The possibility of special music for his visit was also discussed.

—It was suggested to hold Stewardship Sunday on September 7th.

—An Oktoberfest celebration was discussed, but no firm plans have been made.

—The Property Committee submitted minutes and notes dated July 15th.

—It was noted that Bob Holsinger Sr. completed a long list of items during his time here this summer.

—The work on the parish house roof was completed at a cost of \$3,600. At the time of the meeting, there had been one heavy rainfall and no apparent leaks.

—The stair lift has been repaired.

—Bill Dambeck reported that the property committee is still searching for a snow removal company for the church.

—Elizabeth Richards gave a report on Reduce, Renew, Rejoice. A sale is being planned for October.

—Temperature guidelines were discussed and will be announced in the bulletin.

—A report was given on the status of the new locks and the keys purchased. Only those on Council and a few key people on committees and groups are eligible to sign out a key due to the limited number of keys purchased.

—An \$1,800 check was received from the insurance company for water damaged inside the parish house due to the leaking roof.

—Membership rolls were discussed. Council agreed that the secretary could update the rolls as per the letters sent out in May.

—It was noted that summer soloists were lined up through September 7th.

—The organ and piano tuning was discussed and will be handled at by the Worship and Music Committee.

—Mutual Ministry has had personnel meetings with Shirley Manbeck, Pat McConnell, and Amy Lantz.

—It was reported that the WELCA run service and luncheon on Sunday, August 10, went very well. A few guests attended the service and approximately 26 people remained for the luncheon.


—It was noted that WELCA has been well attended with 14 or 15 people coming to the meetings.

—Twenty-two surveys were returned. This is over half of the attending congregation—which Synod considers a success. The survey team adapted the compiled data into a ministry site profile.

—The summer day camp that St. James participated in along with Bethany and St. Luke's was attended by 12 students. This was double the attendance from the previous year.

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.**

## September Flower Charts & Bulletins

	Altar	Niches	Bulletins
7	<b>IHO Bill Dambeck's Birthday By Judy Dambeck</b>		<b>IHO Bill Good by Barb Good</b>
14			<b>IHO Bill Wilt &amp; Jada Mayo's Birthday By Donna Wilt</b>
21			
28		<b>IHO Dave and Jean Bickel's Anniversary</b>	<b>IHO Dave and Jean Bickel's Anniversary</b>

## Worship Assistants

Would you like to help serve your congregation? There are many opportunities to do so by helping

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

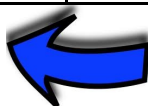
### September Birthdays

2 William Good  
9 William Dambeck  
15 William Wilt  
21 Kim Vandevander  
27 Joyce Albright

**Happy Birthday!**

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

	Greeters	Usher
Sept	Sylvia M, Elizabeth Richards, Judy Bryan	TBA
Oct	Sylvia M.	TBA
Nov	Evelyn Holsinger	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

WELCA meets at their regular date and time, Saturday, September 20, at 8:30 AM. You don't want to miss this meeting. Linda Trout will lead devotions and Peggy Thatcher will discuss the possibility of having the Allegheny Synodical Woman's Organization meet at St. James for their annual spring convention. We'll also be planning the October sale resulting from all the great things found during the Reduce, Renew, and Rejoice project.

Did you know that St. James is the only church in Altoona that has a WELCA group? Come help us show Altoona what a difference the ladies of WELCA can make!

N  
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w  
s



I can do things you cannot,  
you can do things I cannot;  
together we can do great  
things.

- Mother Teresa

# Thank You

On behalf of the MOMS club of Hollidaysburg/  
Altoona I would like to thank you for being a great  
supporter of our Chapter. We truly appreciate all that  
you do for us and are looking forward to another  
wonderful year!

Tiffany Settle, President

# Thank You

## THANK YOU

When I left St. James in 1983 it was a thriving, bustling congregation. When I leave this time it is struggling for its existence. My primary reason for stepping aside at this time is that I am just worn out and my passion and energy are no longer there. I would hope this will open the door for NEW ideas and a renewed vision. Not all of those ideas can be expected to come from the outside. However, Bishop Rhyne will visit St. James on Sunday, Sept. 14, for a visit that was planned BEFORE I made the decision to vacate my position at St. James. That will be a good day to meet and converse with your new Bishop. Let him hear your concerns.

As I leave I would like to thank you, the members of St. James, for giving me another opportunity to serve as your Pastor. I have again enjoyed your support and gracious hospitality as I came to know it when I first came here 40 years ago.

I would also like to thank our organist and choir director, Pat McConnell for her work on the console and for allowing my voice, long past its prime, to sing in her choir.

Now a major thank you to Amy Lantz for using her incredible talents to turn out professional quality weekly bulletins, news-letters, etc. When I came here in 1974 Peggy Webb was an outstanding asset to me because she knew the congregation so well. Amy has been just as outstanding because she knows how to handle the computer. I don't need to tell you how important it is to be able to communicate with today's world with today's technology. Amy knows how to do that.

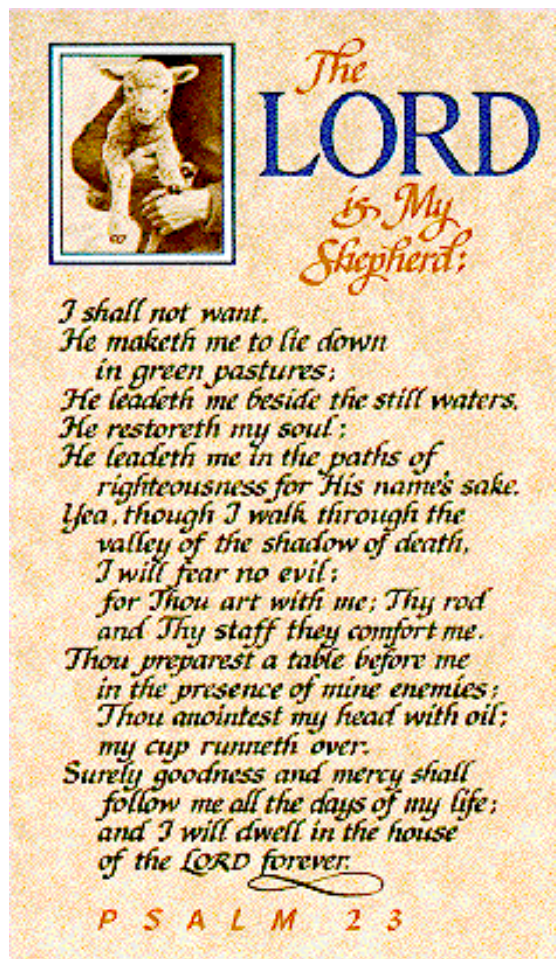
In 1984 I attended a seminar for Pastors and secretaries where the leader began by asking, ***"Who is the most important person on the staff at your Church?"*** Both the Pastors and the secretaries sat in silence. The leader then answered his own question by saying: ***"We are in the age of communication. Therefore, the most important person on your staff is the secretary."*** Amy has proven to me that she is worthy of that responsibility. Thanks Amy.

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**



My prayers will continue to be with this congregation as you work TOGETHER to find how you can best contribute to the work of the Gospel in your setting in Altoona. There is a solution. God has not abandoned you. Listen to his voice and follow his leading. That is how the sheep in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm found green pastures and right pathways. God is available to be your shepherd just as he was for David. That is something you can count on. **AMEN**

Pastor Ed



# God's Work, Our Hands

## Stories of Faith In Action

### A PRICELESS GIFT

Nathalie Lassang has a passion for medicine and Cameroon, her home country. "I have wanted to help people who are ill for as long as I can remember. My desire is to return to Cameroon to work there as a physician," says Nathalie, a medical student and scholarship recipient in the ELCA's International Leaders program.

"While growing up, many of us kids would fall sick, especially with malaria," she says. "I wanted to do something to help." And thanks to a scholarship from ELCA churchwide ministries, Nathalie is now pursuing her dream.

Once she completes her studies and residency at Ross University School of Medicine in Dominica, Nathalie plans to return to Cameroon to serve as a physician with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon. Both the ELCA and the Lutheran church in Cameroon are member churches of The Lutheran World Federation.

"My hope is that the people I get to assist in the healing process will feel God's love and presence," she says, adding that her education "is a priceless gift."



**Mission Support helps connect with our global companion partners and allows for membership within The Lutheran World Federation, a communion of 144 Lutheran churches around the world.**

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





## ALLEGHENY SYNOD

701 Quail Avenue 814-942-1042  
Altoona, PA 16602-3010 814-941-9259 fax

office@alleghenysynod.com  
alleghenysynod.org

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Companions in Christ's Mission with the Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church

To the sisters and brothers in Christ of the Allegheny Synod,

Grace and Peace to you in the name of God, our Father, and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. On this first Sunday that I am serving you as Bishop, I wanted to send my greetings and to let you know that I keep you in my prayers always. My prayer is that God will continue to bless you, and help us to know that Jesus Christ is here, leading and guiding us in the Allegheny Synod.

Jesus loves you more than you can ever know. God Almighty has called you by name, claimed you in the waters of baptism, and the Holy Spirit has united you forever to this life of God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Christ is here, he is with us, and that is what makes all of the difference. We also thank our Lord that our salvation happens, and is happening, because of his mercy, his grace, his love, and his choosing. Jesus loves us and saves us - because he wants to. Thanks be to God.

Because he has loved us so much, we therefore get to share his love and mercy with this world that so desperately needs it. That is what God's people are supposed to do. We gather for worship to praise and give thanks to our Lord, and then we are strengthened by our Lord, in the Word and the Holy Eucharist, to take Christ's love and life into the world.

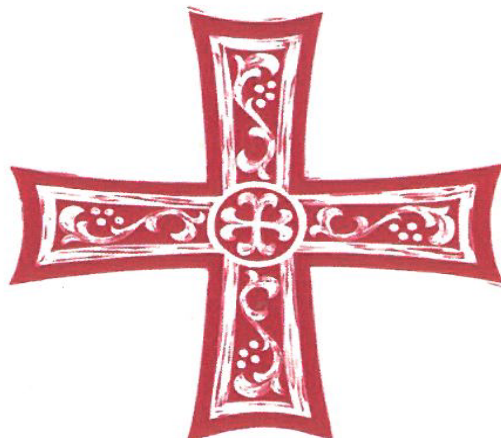
We, the Allegheny Synod, do a wonderful job of helping where there is a need. Our churches support food ministries across the Synod, many of you gather coats and winter supplies for those in need, you make quilts, you supply Christmas gifts, and you reach out where God leads you. Our synod continually leads our region (which is full of many larger synods) in support of ministries beyond our borders. You provide for ministries like the world hunger programs, missionary support, and disaster response. You help, you give, and that is what we will continue to do together.

We are the body of Christ, and we need to understand ourselves as such. We are not just our individual buildings; our congregation is the Allegheny Synod. We are one church with 35,000 members, which opens 116 doors, across these 7 counties every Sunday, for the purpose of proclaiming the gospel good news of Jesus Christ to these Allegheny hills and valleys - and to all of the world. Our body, the Allegheny Synod, is part of the larger body of the ELCA, which in turn is part of the larger body of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic church across the world and across time.

So, we are in this together. We are always better together than we are apart. It is in our working together, our understanding that we have a common mission of sharing Jesus with the world, that we have our strength. It has been the unfortunate practice of too many Christians to separate churches into "yours and mine." In truth, we are all part of Jesus' church. Jesus is calling us to use the gifts and skills, which he has given us, so that together we can serve him and share his love with this world.

We will journey together, and together we have our strength. May Christ Jesus bless you now and always.

In Christ -  
Bishop Michael



Your Prayers and Presence are Requested  
On The Feast of St. Luke  
Saturday, October 18, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.  
For the

**SERVICE OF INSTALLATION**

for

**THE REVEREND MICHAEL LONNY RHYNE**

as Bishop of  
The Allegheny Synod  
Of The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

First Lutheran Church  
415 Vine Street, Johnstown, PA 15901

A reception will follow at the  
Pasquerilla Conference Center  
301 Napoleon Street, Johnstown  
*Transportation will be provided, if needed*

Rostered Leaders are invited to vest and process.  
The color of the day is red.

*Please RSVP using the enclosed card  
no later than October 1, 2014*

**\*\*Please contact the church office if you would like an RSVP card.\*\***

# 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](mailto:stjamesaltoona@verizon.net)  
The church's website is [www.stjamesaltoona.org](http://www.stjamesaltoona.org)  
Find us on Facebook to get up-to-date information.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS:

COUNCIL MEETING	SEPTEMBER 10, 7:00 PM
FINANCE MEETING	SEPTEMBER 16, 6:30 PM



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



**W.e.l.c.a.**  
8:30 AM  
Saturday, September 20

Please note the that the Council Meeting has changed from Tuesday, September 9, to Wednesday, September 10. Beginning in October, the Council Meeting will take place on the third Tuesday of each month.

Bishop Michael Rhyne will be presiding at St. James on Sunday, September 14.

## POT LUCK LUNCHEON

The next potluck luncheon will be September 14th.

## Offering Counters Needed

If you are interested in helping, please contact the church office or a member of the Finance Committee.



The finance committee will prepare the annual budget for 2014/15 at the meeting on Tuesday, September 16, at 6:00 PM.

All members of the Finance Committee are asked to attend this very important meeting. If you are unable to attend, please contact Elizabeth Richard or the church office.

**DEADLINE FOR THE OCT. ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15.**

<p><b><i>Church Council Members</i></b></p> <p>—President  Maizie Emswiler—Vice President  Donna Wilt—Secretary  Lori Savino—Treasurer  Judy Bryan  Bill Dambeck  Barbara Good  Janet Kauffman  Elizabeth Richards</p>	<p><i>Pastor— Pastor Eli Hess, Vacancy Pastor  Church Administrative Assistant - Amy Lantz  Organist &amp; Choir Director - Pat McConnell  Financial Secretary/Bookkeeper - Colleen Garlick  Custodian—Shirley Manbeck</i></p>
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Chairpersons are listed in bold at the top of each committee.

Mutual Ministry

**\*Barb Good**

Donna Foster  
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