



# Kirchenblatt

February 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.**

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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)

**In the Event of a Pastoral Emergency, please contact Pastor Ed Harsharger by phone at 814-650-5584, by email at [PastorECH@comcast.net](mailto:PastorECH@comcast.net), or at the church office at 944-6835.**

# Greetings From The Pastor

It was a tricky move on my part but it was a deliberate move designed to remind us that when it comes to the future of St. James we all have a part to play.

My sermon on Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> was based on a passage from Isaiah. In that passage Isaiah details the job description God had outlined for him as a Prophet of Israel. Israel, like St. James, was in a struggle for its survival. Isaiah describes his job with these words: **BRING BACK – GATHER – RAISE UP – RESTORE**. During the sermon I asked the congregation if that sounded like a job description for the “minister” at St. James and they agreed that it did.

So we agreed that a minister at St. James has the same responsibility that Isaiah had, i.e., to **BRING BACK – GATHER – RAISE UP – RESTORE**. But what I then pointed out to the congregation was the fact that each week our bulletin states that the **MINISTERS** at St. James are the **PEOPLE OF ST. JAMES**. Incidentally, most of the congregations I have visited in the past decades have a similar statement in their bulletins. The whole truth is that the **MINISTERS** responsible for the rebuilding of this congregation are the “**PEOPLE**” of St. James. Isaiah probably felt he had no help in rebuilding Israel. I optimistically believe I have more help.  
**Gebt Niemals Auf!**

Pastor Ed

## NEW STUDY OPPORTUNITY

As the new ELCA Bishop, points out in an article on page 4, two key programs for any church are worship and scripture study. Beginning on Sunday, Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>, I will offer a study on the Biblical story of **FORGIVENESS**. This will take place at 9:30 on Sunday morning in the adult study class. Study guides for the class will be available beginning on Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>. A sign-up sheet for the class will be on the stand in the upstairs narthex or you may call the office (944-6835).

Gracious Lord, you know the skills and spiritual gifts that are needed to do ministry within this congregation. Please guide one with these qualities to us to be our shepherd. Lead this congregation in the way that you see best for all of your Church. Help us to continue to witness to your truth, and bless each member that we might remain strong in the faith. Keep each member faithful through this time that we might be regular in our worship, diligent in the sharing of the Eucharistic feast, eager to learn, and ever ready to do your will. We pray in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. 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....

**Rev. Terryann Talbot-Moses' husband,** William Moses, joined the Saints of Heaven Tuesday, January 14, 2014. Please hold Pastor Terryann in prayer.

St. James mourns the loss of Raymond Albright Sr. on January 2, 2014.

♦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

# From The Desk Of ELCA Bishop, Elizabeth A. Eaton

We do many wonderful and important things together as the [ELCA](#). We alleviate hunger, we're stopping malaria, we give voice to the most vulnerable in our society, we shelter the homeless, we heal the sick, we rebuild communities after disaster strikes, we work for justice. I am not suggesting that we stop doing any of this. But we must be clear that we are church first. We aren't a non-governmental organization. We aren't the government. We aren't the American Cancer Society.

Baptism makes a difference and makes us different. We are in Christ. Baptism means the death of our old self. This implies sacrifice. It should also mean that we as church do not fit in with the surrounding culture. There are many socially conscious, kindhearted, generous, morally upright, compassionate atheists in the world. How are we distinguishable from them? If our life together consists primarily of being affirmed by God's unconditional love and doing works of justice and charity without understanding that God has brought about the transformation of justified sinners through the costly grace of the crucified Christ, then we are not church.

How are we to live as church first? This is how I see it. At the center of our life together is worship and at the center of our worship is the crucified and risen Christ. When we gather for worship we turn our gaze away from ourselves to the source of our life and hope and salvation. When we gather for worship we are encountered by the living God in Scripture, proclamation of the gospel and the sacraments. God meets us and transforms us. We taste, touch and see the love of God in Christ. Sinners are forgiven. Freed from the incessant human striving for self-justification we can be "lost in wonder, love and praise" (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 631).

We are a community of faith. Our members, congregations, synods and churchwide organization need to be intentional about incorporating prayer, worship, Scripture study, silence and giving into daily life. We are in the faith formation business; not to get more members, not to get more market share, but to know Christ and Christ crucified.

We are church first. All of our work flows from this. Let's keep the main thing the main thing.

Article reprinted from The Lutheran Magazine and abbreviated for space. To read the full article, go to: [http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article\\_id=11792](http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=11792)

## DID YOU KNOW?

- In 2012, your support of ELCA World Hunger totaled \$18.6 million.
- ELCA World Hunger supports projects and programs in 43 US states and more than 50 countries in the world.
- More than 388 food pantries, homeless shelters, and community organizations in the United States receive funding from ELCA World Hunger. Many of these programs are organized by ELCA congregations.

# Getting to know...

## Getting to know...

A Testimony By: Lynn Vandevander

I believe that we as Christians must evangelize or tell others the good news pertaining to our Lord Jesus Christ. After all, the church we attend is St. James **EVANGELICAL** Lutheran Church. But more importantly, sticking up for and telling others about Christ in today's world, a world which seems to have in so many ways turned its back to Jesus and his teachings. We are all constantly bombarded with the bad things and terrible examples of how to conduct ourselves. Don't believe me? Just watch TV. It seems too many have turned against God. For some, the temptation to act like "the world" seems too great to resist. But as followers of Jesus Christ we must resist, for the consequences are too great if we don't.

I have been a mailman in our community for 33 years. Many times I have wondered and asked God why he put me on this earth to be a mailman. Then one time the reason dawned on me. I remembered all the times over the years that I spoke about Jesus to somebody that needed to hear about him. Some of the people lost a loved one, like their spouse. Or maybe it was the young person who didn't feel loved at home and was into drugs. Or maybe it was talking to a fellow believer who just wanted to hear some words of reinforcement in their beliefs. We all need that at times, living in this world today.

So I encourage each and every one of you, when the opportunity presents itself, stick-up for and defend Jesus. Spread the good news to a world who so badly hungers for it. If we get embarrassed and deny the teachings of Jesus to others, it's like denying we even know Jesus. And that's a very dangerous thing, for Jesus may deny knowing you when you are on your knees before the Father.

So be brave, take the risk of being rejected, and stick your neck out a little for Jesus. He will be right there with you, I know it.

Peace be with you all and thank God for Jesus!

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**WELCA will not be meeting during the winter months, January and February, so we have plenty of time to think of some new projects for the coming year. During the March meeting we will discuss and make plans for the 2014 season, so this is your chance to pursue some of your favorite activities, interests, and/or programs you believe would be beneficial for members and friends of St. James, and above all pleasing to The Lord. Have a safe and happy winter.**

**N  
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**Thank You**

Thank you very much for your gift of \$310. 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.”*

St. James would like to thank the following volunteers for all their efforts in undecorating the church after the holidays:

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Barb Good         | Shawn Wilkins    |
| Dave Bickel       | Jean Bickel      |
| Bob Holsinger Sr. | Linda Fanelli    |
| Mike Fanelli      | Evelyn Holsinger |
| Judy Bryan        | Sylvia Malsatzki |
| Bill Dambeck      | Judy Dambeck     |
| Kyle Dambeck      | Wyatt Dambeck    |
| Brooke Olewione   | Eric Wilt        |
| Pastor Ed         |                  |

Sincerely,  
Patricia W. Savage  
President/CEO

Thank you for your recent gift of \$2,018.23 to Lutheran Disaster Response, International. Your gift means that our church can continue its effective and efficient response to disasters that have already occurred and can stand ready for those that may come in the future.

Thank you for standing with those in need. Many blessings in the year ahead.

In Christ's service,  
The Rev. Daniel Rift  
Director, ELCA World Hunger  
and Disaster Appeal

**Thank You**

# Financial Reports

## CHARITABLE DONATIONS

**October 1, 2013 - December 31, 2013**

### MEMBER SPECIAL GIVING

|                              |          |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Allegheny Synod - Designated | \$210.00 |
| Blanket Sunday               | \$72.00  |
| Harvest Home                 | \$320.00 |
| Mission                      | \$30.00  |

### BENEVOLENCE

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Allegheny Synod - Designated Support     | \$750.00   |
| Haller Earnings - ELCA Disaster Response | \$2,018.23 |

## INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY

**December 1, 2013 - December 31, 2013**

### INCOME

|                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Bank Interest   | \$0.18      |
| Contributions   |             |
| General         | \$3,415.00  |
| Designated      | \$598.00    |
| Special         | \$248.00    |
| Estate Income   | \$46,748.00 |
| Thrivent Choice | \$87.00     |
|                 | <hr/>       |
|                 | \$51,096.18 |

### EXPENSES

|                         |            |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Pastoral Administration | \$1,733.90 |
| Worship & Music         | \$928.75   |
| Office                  | \$1,541.50 |
| Custodial & Property    | \$2,233.10 |
| Church Functions        | \$23.60    |
| Benevolence             | \$505.00   |
|                         | <hr/>      |
|                         | \$6,965.85 |

### December 2012

Contributions \$5,590.95

Average Weekly Attendance 35 Christmas Eve Service 61

### December 2013

Contributions \$4,013.00

Average Weekly Attendance 24 Christmas Eve Service 50

# News & Notes From Council

—A council meeting was held on January 14, 2014.

—The agenda was adopted with four additions.

—The Council Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

—The Pastor's Report was submitted and accepted.

—The financial report for December was submitted.

—It was reported that the annual financial audit was completed by Jean Bickel, Betty Boslet, Verna Mills, and Dana Detwiler.

—A check was received and deposited from the Dorothy Mann estate. There are more funds due to be paid sometime after January 14th provided that there are no further contests made to the will.

—It was reported that the Finance Committee had discussed placing the Dorothy Mann funds into a short term investment.

—A check was issued to Brotherhood Mutual to return the claim for the Baptismal Font Cover. The Treasurer reported that St. James had incurred no expense up to this point and that the entire payment was being returned.

—A letter from the Altoona Police Department stating exactly how the Baptismal Font Cover was found was submitted for the record.

—The investment accounts were discussed at length.

—The Treasurer, Lori Savino, announced her resignation as of March 31, 2014. She was not aware of a formal job description, but stated that some of her duties include monthly checks and reports, payroll and payroll reports, W-2s, and 1099s.

—All committees that have not met are asked to hold a meeting before the next Council Meeting on February 11, 2014.

—The current voucher system for paying miscellaneous expenses was discussed.

—It was suggested that there be a review of the wills that have made bequeaths to St. James.

—It was decided to hold the church picnic on Sunday, June 8, 2014, at Highland Park. A Christian Ed/Social Ministry meeting will be held as soon as more information is available.

—It was noted that manpower is needed for the church picnic.

—A pot luck luncheon/hymn sing was suggested to improve fellowship.

—The beam on the back porch was discussed. It had been decided that the beam is safe and will be fixed in warmer weather.

—A meeting between the property committee and the custodian will be forthcoming to discuss his job duties as well as use his knowledge of the church to discern things that need done.

—Pastor Ed talked about comparing our attendance and per-capita giving to similar congregations.

—Un-decorating the church was completed on January 4th.

—Worship assistants are needed, particularly lectors.

—Pastor Ed has spoken with Jane Gable at St. Luke's. St. Luke's is interested in joining with St. James for various activities such as their Senior Luncheon and a summer day camp program.

—A motion passed to allow the Allegheny Chorale use of the church on April 27, 2014, and December 7, 2014.


—The new website is up and running. It was mentioned that some of the new features are pleasing to view and well formatted.

—The secretary's hours were discussed. This will be revisited at the February meeting.

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.**



# February Flower Charts & Bulletins

| Altar   | Niches   | Bulletins |
|---|--|-----------|
| 2   |  |           |
| 9   |  |           |
| 16  |  |           |
| 23 <b>IMO Martha and Amelia Yanke</b><br><b>By The Yanke Family</b> |  |           |

## February Birthdays

- 1 Chris Thompson
- 12 Jean Bickel
- 12 Bob Hensch
- 12 Kimberly Dambeck
- 25 Wyatt Dambeck



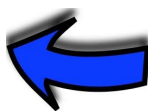
**Happy Birthday!**

## 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.  |
|-------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Feb.</b> | Dana Detwiler | Bill Dambeck | Bill Dambeck |
| <b>Mar.</b> | TBA           | TBA          | TBA          |
| <b>Apr.</b> | TBA           | TBA          | TBA          |

|             | Greeters     | Usher        |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Feb.</b> | Judy Dambeck | Bill Dambeck |
| <b>Mar.</b> | TBA          | TBA          |
| <b>Apr.</b> | 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.*

# Announcements and Upcoming Events

**IN THE CASE OF A PASTORAL EMERGENCY,**  
please contact Pastor Harshbarger at 650-5584, or through  
the church office at 944-6835.  
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.



**W.e.l.c.a.**

WELCA is taking a winter break. Meetings are scheduled to resume in March. Please watch for more details.



## CHOIR NOTES

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

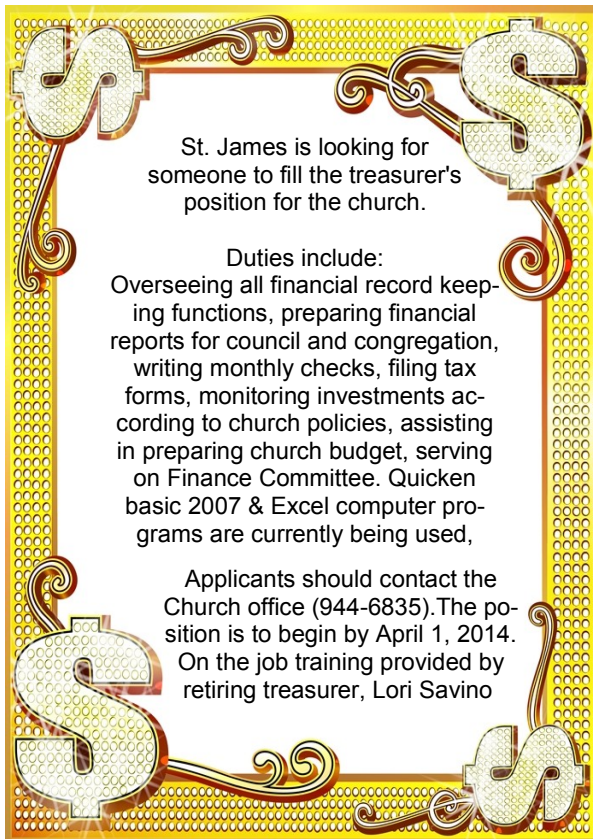
## POT LUCK LUNCHEON

The pot luck luncheon has been suspended until April due to winter weather conditions.

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

## UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Council Meeting Feb. 11, 7:00 PM



St. James is looking for someone to fill the treasurer's position for the church.

Duties include:  
Overseeing all financial record keeping functions, preparing financial reports for council and congregation, writing monthly checks, filing tax forms, monitoring investments according to church policies, assisting in preparing church budget, serving on Finance Committee. Quicken basic 2007 & Excel computer programs are currently being used,

Applicants should contact the Church office (944-6835). The position is to begin by April 1, 2014. On the job training provided by retiring treasurer, Lori Savino

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.

## 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.

The February Lunch will be held on Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> in the Parish Hall – entrance on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

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

Menu includes: meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, coleslaw and desert.

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!

## Volunteers Needed

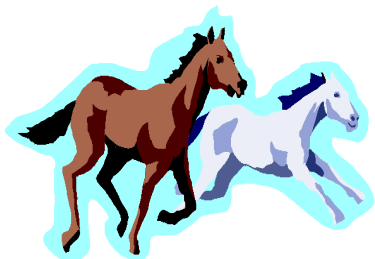
Pat McConnell has a small therapeutic program at her barn in Greenwood.

She needs volunteers to side walk with the riders.

This program will take place on Tuesdays at 5:30 PM for one hour beginning in February.

If you can help, please contact Pat at 943-0718.

Pat will train anyone who wishes to help.



## 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!*

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b><i>Church Council Members</i></b></p> <p>—President<br/> —Vice President<br/> Donna Wilt—Secretary<br/> Lori Savino—Treasurer<br/> Judy Bryan<br/> Bill Dambeck<br/> Maizie Emswiler<br/> Barbara Good<br/> Bob Hench<br/> Janet Kauffman<br/> Elizabeth Richards</p> | <p><i>Pastor— Ed Harshbarger, Interim</i><br/> <i>Church Administrative Assistant - Amy Lantz</i><br/> <i>Organist &amp; Choir Director - Pat McConnell</i><br/> <i>Sexton - Howard Walters</i><br/> <i>Treasurer - Lori Savino</i></p> |
|---|---|

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 Walter

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