



# Kirchenblatt

January 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	Worship Assistants	Page 9
Prayer List	Page 3	Financials	Page 7	Announcements and	Page 10
Letter From A Member	Page 4	Council Notes	Page 8	Upcoming Events	
Getting To Know...	Page 5	Flower Charts	Page 9	Committee Descriptions	Page 11
WELCA News	Page 6	Birthdays	Page 9	Committee Lists	Page 12

### 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

## RUMORS VS TRUTH

During the month of December I found myself spending way too much time tracking down rumors. If you check the definition of “rumor” in Webster’s dictionary you will discover why dealing with a rumor takes so much time.

**RUMOR:** (1) “Talk or opinion widely disseminated with no discernible source.” (HEARSAY)

(2) “A statement or report current without known authority for its truth.”

The Eighth Commandment cautions us against spreading rumors. **YOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS AGAINST YOUR NEIGHBOR.**

During my previous tenure at St. James I wrote a treatise on the Ten Commandments. Some of what my research uncovered at that time may be relevant today.

In the Book of Concord (page 404) I found this sentence concerning the Eighth Commandment: ***“There is nothing about a person that can do greater good or greater harm, in spiritual or in temporal matters, than this smallest and weakest of its members, the tongue.”***

And from the same book (page 403) comes these words: ***“Now we have the sum and substance of the Eighth Commandment; no one shall harm their neighbor, whether friend or foe, with their tongue. No one shall speak evil of another, whether truly or falsely, unless it is done with proper authority or for their improvement. A person should use their tongue to speak only good of everyone, to cover the neighbor’s sins and infirmities, to overlook them, and to cloak and veil them with honor. Our chief reason for doing so should be the one Christ indicates in the Gospel, and in which he means to embrace all the commandments concerning our neighbor. Whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them.”***

I save nearly everything I write. Sometimes it is good for me to go back to remind myself what I learned 30-40 years ago. I still take these words to heart. I hope you can as well.

Pastor Ed

*Most Holy God, through your servant Moses you lead your people out of bondage in Egypt and by a star you guided the magi from the east to the birthplace of your Son. Direct this congregation as we look to the future. Remind us that you are with us and that you continue to guide us. We ask that you would lead a candidate to us who is eager to do ministry with us in this place and that you would lead us to recognize the one whom you send. We pray in the Name of Jesus Christ, who is the Good Shepherd. 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

### *In their own homes:*

Becky Manbeck  
Clara Esworthy  
Raymond Albright Sr.  
Charlie Green  
Patti Green

*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](mailto: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.

My name is Judie Harrison-Means and my husband, Max, recently passed away. I wanted to share some information, about fulfilling the wishes of yourself or your loved one, at an emotional time.

The majority of us have "organ donor" checked on our driver's license. This is a legal form and will be followed, at the time of death. I learned first hand about this procedure. Once I notified the hospital RN that my husband was a donor, the nurse called CORE Headquarters in Pittsburgh. (Center for Organ Recovery and Education)

The coordinator arrived to give us details and help us understand the process. As next-of-kin, I received a list of 31 possible organs that might be donated. It often depends on age, sex, or general health, prior to death. I signed a release. She told us the steps to match donor and recipient for life saving and life enhancing. She arranges the surgeons at the locations and works on the timing of transplants. Many questions were answered for our family and friends. She stayed with us, for my husband's final days on earth and comforted us in many, special ways.

After Max's death, his body was taken to Pittsburgh for "harvesting" his organs, then returned to an Erie funeral home. (A person can still be viewed, if a donor)

My first letter from CORE notified me that his corneas were given to two people for sight. I cried tears of joy!.

The second letter informed me that they were able to match much more ---bone, tendons, etc. This may aid in surgeries to restore movement to arm, leg, knee, or hernia repairs and help in brain injuries. His tissue can help up to 50 people. His skin can be used to help burn victims, research, reconstructive surgery, and certain cancers. Just a small piece of tissue, from the rib area, can be used to train cadaver dogs in Pittsburgh.

I felt pride, as I read this letter. It gave me great comfort and peace to know that Max lives on, through his unselfish gift to others.

Please give this some thought and indicate "organ donor" on your driver's license. I added a statement on my living will, also. For additional information, contact CORE at 800-366-6777 or [www.core.org](http://www.core.org)

# Getting to know...

## Getting to know...

STEPHANIE WILKINS

What could possibly motivate a 35 year old woman with a husband and two teenagers to go to college to pursue a degree in counseling. To Stephanie Wilkins the answer comes easy.

As a recovering alcoholic she spent a lot of time attending AA meetings. During that time she was able to weigh her problems against those of the others who attended the meetings and she came away with a deep desire to help as many people as possible. Realizing she needed more education than she had, she enrolled at the Altoona Campus of PSU. Her initial goal was to work just with alcoholics but the courses she took expanded her horizons and motivated her to want to help people with various emotional problems.

After two years at PSU Altoona she moved to the main campus. Upon completing the four year program she qualified for a scholarship to complete a Master's Degree. During that five years of study she credits her husband Tim with holding the home and family together so she could be a full time student and a "weekend Mom."

She defines her goal as a counselor as being a way to repay the community for all the support she received during her days of recovering from alcoholism and her subsequent education. She is affiliated with a Christian Counseling Service, Safe Harbor. The organization is based in Maryland but makes referrals to licensed counselors in various communities. Stephanie is also affiliated with a number of insurance companies which enables her to receive payment for those clients who have insurance. Further, she bills those who are self-pay on a scale that is based on their income. In the coming months, Pastor Ed will work with the Church Council to develop a plan that will enable Stephanie to provide counseling services for members of St. James who have no insurance.

Stephanie's passion, outside of work is crocheting. In addition she and her daughter have recently purchased a soap business from a local woman who had the business for 7 years. The soaps are made with vegetable fats. She describes it as "vegan" soap. For more information about that product you can check out [www.wilkinsecologic](http://www.wilkinsecologic).

Stephanie's phone number for her Counseling Service is 814-931-7713 or 941-2693.



**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.**



**Thank you**

St. James would like to thank the following volunteers for all their efforts in making the church beautiful in preparation of the birth of Jesus:

Mike Savino  
Eric Wilt  
Bob Holsinger  
Dave Detwiler  
Mike Fanelli  
Shawn Wilkins  
Pastor Ed  
Glenn Dell  
Sylvia Malsatzki

Jean Bickel  
Verna Mills  
Barb Good  
Elizabeth Richards  
Linda Fanelli  
Elizabeth Richards  
Eveyln Holsinger  
Dave Bickel  
Judy Bryan

**Thank you**

Dear Needles For The Needy:

Thank you so much for the beautiful lap robes. Someone put a lot of love and time into them. They sure will keep the residents warm this winter.

Barb Conrad, Activity Director  
Altoona Center for Nursing Care

Thank you for coordinating the Electronic Recycling Event on 10/26/13. We collected 5,213 pounds of e-waste scrap at the event. We applaud your effort in helping to keep this material out of landfills. We hope to conduct another recycling event with you in 2014.

Sincerely,

John Mamula  
VP of Sales & Marketing  
Commonwealth Computer  
Recycling, LLC

# Financial Reports

## CHARITABLE DONATIONS

October 1, 2013 - November 30, 2013

### MEMBER SPECIAL GIVING

Allegheny Synod - Designated	\$105.00
Blanket Sunday	\$72.00
Harvest Home	\$310.00
Mission	\$15.00

### BENEVOLENCE

Allegheny Synod - Designated Support	\$375.00
Haller Earnings - ELCA Disaster Response	\$2,018.23

## INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY

November 1, 2013 - November 30, 2013

### INCOME

Bank Interest	\$0.14
Contributions	
General	\$2,115.00
Designated	\$250.00
Special	\$225.00
Thrivent Choice	\$58.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,648.14

### EXPENSES

Pastoral Administration	\$1,627.12
Worship & Music	\$1,657.11
Office	\$1,226.14
Custodial & Property	\$823.99
Christian Education	\$15.00
Church Functions	\$50.00
Haller Earnings	\$2,018.23
	<hr/>
	\$7,417.59

### November 2012

Contributions \$3,087.00

Average Weekly Attendance 37 Thanksgiving Service 20

### November 2013

Contributions \$2,365.00

Average Weekly Attendance 32 Thanksgiving Service 13

# News & Notes From Council

—A council meeting was held on December 10, 2013.

—The Council Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

—The issue of President/Vice President is still undecided.

—Several Council Members agreed to take the chair position of committees that they serve. See the updated listed on the back of this newsletter for more details.

—Ideas to improve attendance were discussed.

—New check signers were established.

—A check for \$75 from the Allegheny Chorale was presented and the funds designated for a possible concert reception next year.

—It was reported that the reception after the Allegheny Chorale concert cost \$23.60. Most of the supplies and treats were donated.

—Meetings with the financial advisory companies had been postponed due to scheduling conflicts and have not been rescheduled yet.

—It was agreed to establish a small petty cash fund for the office at the request of the church secretary.

—The pot luck luncheon was suspended until April due to winter weather conditions.

—The energy audit from Pastor Thwing was received and forwarded to the Property Committee.

—It was confirmed that the church will be kept at 55 degrees until several hours before service. The temperature will be brought up to 68 degrees before the organ is played in worship services.

—A report on the church decorating was given. Eighteen people came to help and the task was completed in two and a half hours.

—It was reported that the guest musicians have been well received and positive feedback has been forthcoming.

—A contribution based fund was established to compensate guest musicians. It was decided that donations for this fund can be turned in with the regular Sunday offering.

—The differences between the Pastor's Discretionary Fund and The White Gift Fund were discussed.

—The need for more lectors and worship assistants was discussed. Pastor Ed requested permission to allow communion assistants to distribute the bread rather than the wine as this could be one reason people are hesitant to be a lector.

—The Thanksgiving service was attended by just thirteen people this year. This issue will be revisited at a later date to discuss whether this service should continue or not.

—Due to the increased cost of the new bulletins, the sponsorship fee was raised from \$8 to \$10.

—WELCA reported on their recent activities and announced that they are on break until March.

—An update was given on the status of the church website. Due to technical issues, the website is undergoing major reconstruction.

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.**



# January Flower Charts & Bulletins

	Altar	Niches	Bulletins
5			
12			
19			
26	<b>IMO Wanda (Yanke) Dougherty &amp; IMO Jacob Yanke By The Yanke Family</b>		



## January Birthdays

- 1 Cathy Good
- 4 Ann Bartley
- 5 Carolyn Feather
- 7 Sienna Mayo
- 9 Julia Dambeck
- 11 Maizie Emswiler
- 18 Alysia Tyler (Detwiler)
- 20 Elliot Wilt
- 22 Dorothy Cromer
- 24 Ariel Manbeck
- 29 Dorie Hoover

**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.
Jan.	Robin Kessler	TBA	TBA
Feb.	Dana Detwiler	Bill Dambeck	Bill Dambeck
Mar.	TBA	TBA	TBA

	Greeters	Usher
Jan.	Barb Good, Robin Kessler	TBA
Feb.	Dana Detwiler	Bill Dambeck
Mar.	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.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Council Meeting Jan. 14, 7:00 PM



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

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



## 5,000 Can Challenge

Between November 1, 2013 and February 2, 2014 several area churches have accepted the challenge to collect 5,000 cans of food for local food banks.

All food will be donated on a weekly or monthly basis and a running tally kept. Several churches are well on their way to their 500 can goal.



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 FEBRUARY ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15TH.***

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.

# **Make A Difference at St. James...**

## **Join A Committee**

### **Mutual Ministry Committee:**

The primary function of this committee is to stay in touch with issues in the congregation and community in order to make the ministry of the congregation more effective. This committee will interview each employee once a year.

### **By-Laws Committee:**

This committee is responsible for making sure the Church's Constitution is up-to-date and in compliance with models provided by the ELCA.

### **Christian Education/Social Ministry Committee:**

This committee shall oversee the conduct and promotion of education and social activities within the congregations. This committee shall also extend Christian compassion to persons of all ages in need of aid in body or soul.

### **Stewardship/Evangelism Committee:**

This committee shall devote itself to deepening the spiritual life of the congregation and shall periodically evaluate the congregation in the context of its surrounding community. This committee shall also evoke and promote the expression of Christian faith in daily living and lead congregational efforts which result in informed and grateful giving.

### **Worship and Music Committee:**

This committee shall ensure that the services of God's house are conducted regularly and in accordance with the liturgy of the ELCA. This committee shall arrange for and train all manner of worship assistants and ensure that required materials are available and cared for.

### **Finance Committee:**

This committee, which includes the congregation treasurer, shall prepare a draft budget for each year. This committee is responsible for all financial affairs of the congregation, including but not limited to payment of all obligations, investments, and insurance programs.

### **Property Committee:**

This committee shall see to the proper maintenance and protection of all property of the congregation, and shall take care that the same is kept in good repair.

These descriptions are just a brief synopsis of the functions of these committees. If you'd like more information regarding a particular committee(s), please contact the committee chairperson where noted on the back of this newsletter.

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

Robin Kessler

\*Elizabeth Richards

By-Laws

\*Bill Dambeck

\*Maizie Emswiler

Stewardship/Evangelism

**\*Donna Wilt**

Dana Detwiler

\*Janet Kauffman

\*Lori Savino

Worship & Music

Dana Detwiler

Donna Foster

\*Bob Hench

Pat McConnell

Earl Walters

Finance

**\*Liz Richards**

\*Bill Dambeck

\*Lori Savino

Edith Trinks

John Wiederkehr

\*Donna Wilt