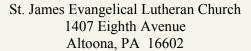


Kirchenblatt March 2017

(Parish Newsletter)





Join us for Worship Sundays at 10:45 am

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In the event of a Pastoral Emergency, please contact Pastors Scott & Carol Custead Phone: 814-254-3072 Email: scustead@atlanticbb.net or ccustead@atlanticbb.net

OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY-THURSDAY 9 AM-1PM

EMAIL: STJAMESALTOONA@VERIZON.NET

WEBSITE: WWW.STJAMESALTOONA.ORG

PHONE: 814-944-6835

MISSION STATEMENT:

TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST THROUGH WORD AND SACRAMENT BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

PASTOR'S LETTER FOR MARCH 2017







Is it just me, or has this winter been all over the map? One day it is 50 degrees and the next it is blowing snow. One day I am looking for crocuses. The next day I am watching for polar bears.

This is frustrating as a skier. How can you plan around this kind of weather? You set a date and then work to get the calendar clear for it. Unfortunately the day arrives and it feels more like a day to get the lawn furniture ready. Then, of course, it gets cold and snows again, but everything you moved to clear the calendar is now demanding attention. The skis have been lonely this winter.

It would be nice to get this regulated. Snow when I want to ski, warm sun when I want to picnic, and enough rain to keep things growing—but only at night! As a matter of fact there are a good number of things beyond the weather that it would be nice to get under control.

It would be nice if things happened when we wanted them to happen. All babies would be planned and timed appropriately. The money would always fit neatly into the budget. Guests would show up only when it is convenient. The inevitable problems would appear only one at a time.

Unfortunately life is more helter-skelter. Things show up at the most inconvenient times. Problems seem to clump together. The kids don't listen. The cold hits at the holidays. And it snows when we have to be somewhere important on the other side of town.

Scripture says that God is the rock (psalm 18:2) God is steady even when life is not. God is reliable even when the weather is not. God is reliable even when others fail us. God is everlasting and everything else passes away.

I realize that eternal truth won't make scheduling a ski day any easier, but it does remind me to look up every now and then. It reminds me to look at the big picture. All the momentary trials and frustrations are indeed simply momentary. God's word and promises are reliable even when nothing else seems to be.

KIRCHENBLATT

YOUR PLEDGE FOR ST. JAMES EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ALTOONA, PA

- I will talk positively about my church.
- I will invite others to come and share in our ministry.
- I will attend services regularly.
- I will share that God lives through us - and smile regularly.
- I will give thanks to God every day for the blessings of my church family.



News and Notes from Council

ST. JAMES EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING FEBRUARY 21, 2017 AT 6:00PM

DEVOTIONS led by Pastor Carol Custead.

CHURCH MINUTES: Minutes from January 17, 2017 were reviewed. Betty Boslet made a motion to accept. Seconded by Shirley Manbeck. Motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Scott visited Ann Bartley and she is now at Health South. She seems to be coming along well. The Gospel Lenten Series are planned with Bethany, Simpson Temple and St. James. The service on March 22nd will be held at St. James with a meal. Donna Wilt made a motion to accept. Seconded by Donna Foster. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Quarterly distributions are being sent to the Synod. Shirley Manbeck made a motion to accept to accept the report. Seconded by Sylvia Malsatzki. Motion carried.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: No report.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION/SOCIAL MINISTRY: Sweets and Treats will be held March 5^{tth. And} Potluck will be March 19th. Church Picnic will be held either 4th or 25th of June. This will be confirmed next month.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE: The Altoona Fire Department gave to St. James a Standard Inspection/3 year Fire Inspection form. This is going to be given to Bob Holsinger and Mike Savino. Carpeting for Sunday School Room will be installed March 6th (Monday). This will take approximately three days.

STEWARDSHIP/EVANGELISM COMMITTEE: No report.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE: Ash Wednesday service on March 1st will be held at St. James with two services. One at 10:00am and one at 7:00pm. Pastor Scott will take care of the Ashes. Palms and Easter Flowers will be taken care of by Mark Hoover and Tim Surkovich

MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE: No report.

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE: No report.

ST. JAMES EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURH SPECIAL CONGREGATIONALMEETING FEBRUARY 21, 2017 AT 12:00PM

OLD BUSINESS: All committees need to meet soon! There will be a BIBLE STUDY starting March 12th, 19th, 26th of March and April 9th at 9:30am – 10:30am. Still looking for Delegates for the Allegheny Synod Assembly for June 2nd and 3rd, 2017.

NEW BUSINESS: No report.

COMMUNICATIONS: No report.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Betty Boslet. Seconded by Sylvia Malsatski. Motion carried.

The meeting closed with a prayer and the Lord's Prayer by Pastor Scott.



Contribution & Attendance Summary December 2015

December 2015

Contributions \$2,735 Average Weekly Attendance: 27

December 2016

Contributions \$2,823.75 Average Weekly Attendance: 31

INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY

December 1, 2016 - December 31, 2016

INCOME

Donk Interest

Bank interest	\$.02
Contributions	
General	\$2,627.00
Designated	\$196.75
Special	\$85.00
Other Income	\$379.93
	\$3,289.30

EXPENSES

Pastoral Administration	\$2,981.37
Worship & Music	\$955.28
Office	\$1,110.69
Custodial & Property	\$1,631.33
Uncategorized	.\$406.80
	\$7,085.47

March Flower Chart and Bulletin's

Altar: 5

12

19

26

Bulletins:

5

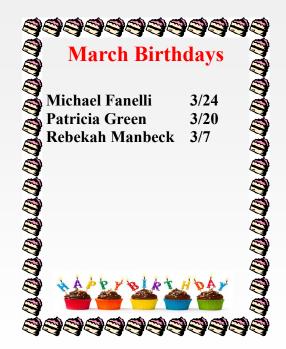
12

19

26

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*Flowers will now be supplied by Warner's Florist. Cost \$40



Easter Flowers

Your name (as you wish it to app	ear in the bulletin)
This Donation is made:	
IHO:	
IMO:	
Choice of Flowers:	
	6"Daffodils(\$8) Pink Hyacinths(\$6/2bulb) Blue Hyacinths(\$6/2bulb) White Hyacinths(\$9/3bulb) Lilies 5 Bloom (\$10)
Amount of Contribution: \$	Envelope Number:
Please Check One:	
Yes, I do want to take the	flower(s) home with me.
No, I do not want to take to would like them to be given to a s	he flower(s) home with me. I shut-in or friend of St. James.
Please use the My Offering enve order and payment. Check the F and place in the offering plate.	
Orders must be received by Marc	ch 26, 2017

Almighty God, giver of every good gift; look upon this congregation with grace. Guide the minds of our Call Committee members as they discern which of your servants will be our next pastor. Please grant that we might receive a faithful shepherd who will care for us and continue to equip us for ministry in this place. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Our Prayer List:

Susan Recchia Tim Surkovich

(Names for inclusion on our parish prayer list can be submitted to the church office.

The name will remain on the list for one month. At the end of that period please advise the church office, if you would like the name to be continue for another month.)

Those serving in our military

Homewood of Altoona:

Dick Potter

Graystone Manor//Bellmeade
Robert Civils

Presbyterian Village in Hollidaysburg: Charlie Green Patti Green

In their own homes:

Becky & Deborah Manbeck John Wiederkehr Glenn Dell Jake and Marlene Leonard

Remember In Your Prayers

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.

Mar 1—Luke 2:41-52, Psalm 51

O Lord, throughout these forty days You prayed and kept the fast; Inspire repentance for our sin, And free us from our past (LSB 418:1). Amen

Mar 2—Matthew 5:13-16, Psalm 34:1-8

Lord, when Your glory I shall see And taste Your kingdom's pleasure, Your blood my royal robe shall be, My joy beyond all measure (LSB 438:4)! Amen

Mar 3—Matthew 5:43-48. Psalm 133

Lord, let me win my foes With kindly words and actions, And let me find good friends For counsel and correction. Help me, as You have taught, To love both great and small And by Your Spirit's might To live in peace with all (LSB 696:4). Amen

Mar 4—Matthew 6:25-34, Psalm 37:23-26

Lord Jesus, think on me, By anxious thoughts oppressed; Let me Your loving servant be And taste Your promised rest (LSB 610:2). Amen

Mar 5-Matthew 7:1-5, Psalm 121

Jesus, may our hearts be burning With more fervent love for You; May our eyes be ever turning To behold Your cross anew (LSB 423:3). Amen

Mar 6-Matthew 7:7-11, Psalm 4

Bow down Your gracious ear to me And hear my cry, my prayer, my plea (LSB 734:2). Amen

Mar 7—Mathew 7:15-20, Psalm 1

As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me; Let Your words in me take root. May Your Spirit e'er be near me That I bear abundant fruit (LSB 589:4). Amen

Mar 8—Matthew 8:23-37, Psalm 27:1-5

When at last I near the shore And the fearful breakers roar Twixt me and the peaceful rest, Then, while leaning on Thy breast, May I hear Thee say to me, "Fear not, I will pilot thee" (LSB 715:3). Amen

Mar 9-Matthew 9:1-7, Psalm 130

Forgive me, Lord, for Thy dear Son, The ill that I this day have done, That with the world, myself, and Thee, I ere I sleep, at peace may be (LSB 883:2). Amen

Mar 10-Matthew 9:14-17, Psalm 32:8-11

When I appear before Your throne, Your righteousness shall be my crown; With these I need not hide me. And there, in garments richly wrought, As Your own bride shall we be brought To stand in joy beside You (LSB 438:4). Amen

Mar 11—Matthew 12:1-14, Psalm 55:1-6

Dawn to the cross, which Thou hast blessed With healing gifts for souls distressed, To find in Thee my life, my rest, Christ crucified, I come (LSB 560:1). Amen

Mar 12—Matthew 12:22-32, Psalm 46

Through Stan's wrath Beset our path And worldly scorn assail us, While You are near, We shall not fear; Your strength will never fail us (LSB 714:2). Amen

Mar 13-Matthew 12:46-50, Psalm 100

I'll think upon Thy mercy without ceasing, That earth's vain joys to be pleasing; To do Thy will shall be my sole endeavor Henceforth forever (LSB 439:12). Amen

Mar 14—Matthew 15:1-9. Psalm 112

Grant me the strength to do With ready heart and willing Whatever You command, My calling here fulfilling (LSB 696:2). Amen

Mar 15—Matthew 15:10-20, Psalm 5:7-12

Give us lips to sing Thy glory, Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim, Throats that shout the hope that fills us, Mouths to speak Thy holy name (LSB 578:5). Amen

Mar 16—Matthew 15:32-39. Psalm 105:39-45

Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving bread, May I in grace possess You. Let me with holy food be fed, In hunger I address You (LSB 625:1). Amen

Mar 17—Matthew 16:13-17, Psalm 116:5-14

May ev'ry heart confess Your name, Forever You adore, And, seeking You, itself inflame, To seek You more and More! (LSB 554:4), Amen

Mar 18—Matthew 16:24-28, Psalm 126

When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of Glory died, My richest gain I count but loss And pour contempt on all my pride (LSB 425:1).. Amen

Mar 19—Matthew 17:14-21, Psalm 13

O Fount of hope, how long, how long? When will You come with comfort strong? O come, O come, Your throne forego; Console us in our vale of woe (LSB 355:4). Amen

Mar 20—Matthew 17:24-27, Psalm 45:1-6

Before You, Lord, we bow, Our God who reigns above And rules the world below, Boundless in pow'r and love (LSB 966:1). Amen

Mar 21—Matthew 18:10-14, Psalm 23

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, But yet In love He sought me And on His shoulder gently laid And home rejoicing brought me (LSB 79:3). Amen.

Mar 22-Matthew 19:16-26. Psalm 14

Nothing have I, Christ, to offer, You alone, my highest good. Nothing have I, Lord, to proffer But Your crimson colored blood (LSB 536:4). Amen

Mar 23—Matthew 20:20-28, Psalm 6

Yes, Your comfort renders sweet Ev'ry bitter cup I meet; For Your all-atoning passion Has procured my soul's salvation (LSB 421:4). Amen

Mar 24—Matthew 23:16-22, Psalm 26:1-7

Therefore You alone, my Savior, Shall be all in all to me; Search my heart and my behavior, Root out all hypocrisy (LSB 536:5). Amen

Mar 25—Luke 1:26-38, Psalm 47

This Word remains forever true, All things are possible with You, For You are Lord Almighty (LSB 622:4). Amen

Mar 26—Matthew 23:29-36, Psalm 49:10-15

If Your beloved Son, O God, Had not to earth descended And in our mortal flesh and blood Had not sin's power ended, Then this poor, wretched soul of mine in hell eternally would pine Because of my transgressions" (LSB 568:1). Amen

Mar 27—Matthew 24:36-51. Psalm 25:1-10

O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild! Joy fills the world which sin defiled. Whate'er we have belongs to You; O keep us faithful, strong, and true (LSB 546:3). Amen

Mar 28—Matthew 26:6-13, Psalm 54

Beautiful Savior, Lord of nations, Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor, Praise, adoration Now and forevermore be Thine (LSB 537:4)! Amen

Mar 29—Matthew 26:36-46, Psalm 25:11-22

O keep me watchful, then, and humble; Permit me nevermore to stray. Uphold me when my feet would stumble, And keep me on the narrow way (LSB 694:4). Amen

Mar 30—Matthew 26:47-56, Psalm 88:8-18

On my heart imprint Your image, Blessed Jesus, King of grace, That life's riches, cares, and pleasures Never may Your work erase (LSB 422). Amen

Mar 31-Matthew 27:45-50, Psalm 22:1-6

What language shall I borrow To thank Thee, dearest Friend, For this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end? (LSB 450:5). Amen

Following worship

Announcements and Upcoming Events

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE MAR 1 10AM ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE MAR 1 7PM CHOIR PRACTICE MAR 1 Following worship **ALTOONA STORY LEAGUE MAR 4 2PM SWEETS AND TREATS MAR 5 10AM** LENTEN SERVICE @ BETHANY MAR 8 6PM CHOIR PRACTICE **MAR 8 7PM WELCA MEETING MAR 11 9AM** MARCH KIRCHENBLATT ARTICLE DEADLINE **MAR 15 12PM** LENTEN SERVICE @ SIMPSON TEMPLE **MAR 15 6PM CHOIR PRACTICE MAR 15 7PM POTLUCK DINNER MAR 19 12PM LENTEN SERVICE @ ST. JAMES MAR 22 6PM** CHOIR PRACTICE **MAR 22**

EASTER FLOWER ORDER DEADLINE MAR 26
LENTEN SERVICE @ BETHANY MAR 29 6PM
CHOIR PRACTICE MAR 29 7PM

W.e.l.c.a.

Our next meeting will be March 11th at 9:00am. Ladies please mark your calendar and plan on attending the meeting.

We meet the second Saturday of each month.

Announcements and Upcoming Events



SCHEDULE:

MARCH 1 FOLLOWING

WORSHIP

MARCH 8 7PM

MARCH 15 7PM

MARCH 22 FOLLOWING

WORSHIP

MARCH 29 7PM

KEEP THESE DATES IN MIND:

Our Church Picnic will be either June 4th or June 25th. More details to come.



DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

IN THE CASE OF A PASTORAL EMERGENCY, please contact Pastor's Scott & Carol Custead at Phone: 814-254-3072 Email: scustead@atlanticbb.net or scustead@atlanticbb.net 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.

REMINDER AND IMPORTANT

BULLETIN ADDITIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED NO LATER THAN TUESDAY AT 10:30 AM. For corrections, please contact the church office secretary Tim Surkovich, I'm in the office Monday-Thursday 9-1.

****IF AN ARTICLE FOR THE KIRCHENBLATT CANNOT BE SUBMITTED BY THE 15TH OF THE MONTH, PLEASE CALL AND RESERVE A SPACE FOR YOUR ARTICLE SO THAT THE KIRCHENBLATT CAN BE FORMATTED AHEAD OF TIME TO PROVIDE SPACE FOR ALL THE CONGREGATIONAL NEWS.****



We would like to thank our church family for all of your prayers, phone calls and cards during Bill's recuperating after his accident. Also, Pastor Carol's calls while she was on vacation. We really appreciated your kind thoughts. It is a blessing to know that we have so many caring people in our congregation.

God Bless You! Bill Wilt and family

Announcements and Upcoming Events

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.

SWEETS AND TREATS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH.

Volunteers are needed to provide Sweets and Treats for 2017. Please sign up on the sheet located on the bulletin board in the Sunday School Room. Your generosity is much appreciated by the entire congregation.

The next Sweets and Treats is March 5th!

KIRCHENBLATT

Sensing the Gospel Lenten Series

Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

A Meal and Worship to focus this holy season on things that are holy

Date	Host Church	Subject	Preacher Pastor	Presiding Pastor
Mar 8	Bethany	Touch	Denise	Drew
Mar 15	far 15 Simpson Temple		Scott	Denise
Mar 22	St. James	Taste	Drew	Scott or Carol
Mar 29	Bethany	Hear	Carol	Drew
Apr 5	Apr 5 Simpson Temple		Drew	Denise

Touch: Luke 7:11-15 or Revelation 21:1-4

Sight: Mark 8:22-25 or 1 Corinthians 13:12

Taste: John 2:1-10 or 1 Peter 2:2-3

Hear: John 5:25-29 or Romans 10: 14, 17

Smell: John 12:1-3 or 2 Corinthians 2:14-16a



<u>Lenten Sunday School Bible Study</u> will be led by the pastors on Sundays, March 12, 19, and 26, 9:30-10:30 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall. We will follow Jesus' journey to the cross in St. Matthew's gospel. All are welcome!



Connecting faith & finances for good.®

BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

Each year Thrivent Financial members make an impact in their local communities through Thrivent Choice[®]—Thrivent's member-advised charitable grant program. Eligible members have the opportunity to recommend where Thrivent's charitable outreach funds go, and many choose to give back to their own congregations.

Nearly \$51.3 million in Choice Dollars[®] charitable grant funds were distributed to churches and other nonprofit organizations in 2016. Growing Home, a nonprofit focused on breaking the cycle of generational poverty, helped a family in need using Thrivent Choice funds:

Seth, his wife, Amy, and their children were forced to live in their Jeep after their apartment was condemned. They stayed in Growing Home's emergency shelter for 60 days until they were able to get back on their feet. "The very first night we were in the program, Growing Home was full of love for us," recalls Seth. "My son Connor came in and told me that he had Spider-Man sheets and blankets on his bed. It was the little things that meant so much."

While staying at the shelter, Seth got a new job. Seth and Amy also found an apartment, but didn't quite have enough money for the deposit and first month's rent. With funds from Thrivent Choice, Growing Home was able to step in, and provide them with what they needed to make their transition.

Want to make a difference in the lives of others and live more generously? Thrivent Choice[®] is just one of the benefits of being a Thrivent member. There are thousands of organizations you can support, including your own church. Visit Thrivent choice to see program details and find charitable organizations to help.

This article provided compliments of Thrivent Financial and Andrea K. Paul, FIC, RICP, CLTA, Financial Associate, (814)-695-3496, andrea.paul@thrivent.com.

The Thrivent Choice® charitable grant program engages Thrivent members and Thrivent Member Networks in providing grants that support charitable activities, furthering Thrivent's mission and its purposes under state law. All grants are made at the sole discretion of Thrivent. Directing Choice Dollars® is subject to the program's terms and conditions available at Thrivent.com/thriventchoice. 29390A N1-17

Church Council Members

Mark Hoover—President Shirley Manbeck—Vice President

Dana Detwiler—Secretary

Ralph Grove—Treasurer

Betty Boslet
Carolyn Feather
Donna Foster

Evelyn Holsinger

Sylvia Malsatzki David Manbeck

Debra Morgan

Bill Wilt Donna Wilt

Pastors Carol & Scott Custead

St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church Staff

Pastors—Revs. Scott & Carol Custead, Intentional Interim Pastors

Church Administrative Assistant - Tim Surkovich Organist & Choir Director - Pat McConnell Financial Secretary/Bookkeeper - Ralph Grove Custodian—Earl Walters

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

BELOW YOU WILL FIND THE COMMITTEES AS OF THIS DATE. PLEASE NOTIFY EITHER THE CHAIRMAN OR CHURCH OFFICE IF YOUR NAME DOES NOT APPEAR WHERE IT SHOULD OR APPEARS WHERE IT SHOULDN'T. ALSO, PLEASE NOTIFY US IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SERVE ON ANY OF THESE COMMITTEES.

Mutual Ministry

- *Donna Foster
- *Evelyn Holsinger

Joe Yanke

- *Dana Detwiler
- *Donna Wilt

Christian Education/

Social Ministry

*Evelyn Holsinger

- *Carolyn Feather Janet Kauffman
- *Svlvia Malsatzki
- *Debra Morgan
- *Donna Wilt
- *Shirley Manbeck
- *David Manbeck

Worship & Music

- *Dana Detwiler
- *Donna Foster *Mark Hoover
- *Sylvia Malsatzki
- Pat McConnell
- Phyllis Spinazzola

, - -

<u>Finance</u>

*Mark Hoover

- *Betty Boslet
- *Donna Wilt
- *Bill Wilt
- Ralph Grove

Stewardship/Evangelism

*Donna Wilt

- *Dana Detwiler
- *Carolyn Feather
 Janet Kauffman

By-Laws

*Mark Hoover

- *Betty Boslet
- *Carolyn Feather
 *Debra Morgan
- Edith Trinks

Property

Bob Holsinger

- **Bill Dambeck**
- *Evelyn Holsinger
- *David Manbeck
- *Shirley Manbeck
- *Bill Wilt
- Earl Walters
- Mike Savino
- * Denotes Council Member Thrivent Rep-Robin Kessler A.L.S.M. Rep—?