



Kirchenblatt November 2017

(Parish Newsletter)

St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church
1407 Eighth Avenue
Altoona, PA 16602



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@GMAIL.COM

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 November 2017



KIRCHENBLATT



Halloween and All Saints Day are upon us! Did you know that those two holidays are very connected in the church year? Halloween is short for **“All Hallows Eve”** (*Hallow* is the same word for *Holy* that we find in the Lord's Prayer, and *e'en* is a contraction of *evening*). It is the vigil of All Saints Day which is November 1, but is celebrated in the church year calendar on the Sunday in November which is closest to November 1 (November 5th this year). Those two celebrations have a deep and meaningful connection.

Since Halloween has grown into a major secular holiday in American culture, there are some Christians who refuse to celebrate it, saying that it glorifies evil. They might say that it is not right to send children out as devils and vampires. But perhaps the celebration can be reclaimed and redeemed if we remember its Christian roots.

Did you know that until the 9th century the Church celebrated All Saints Day on May 13th during the Easter Season? So it was during a time of great joy after celebrating the Resurrection, and it was in that joy and hope of resurrection that the faithful who have died were remembered.

PASTOR'S LETTER FOR November 2017



KIRCHENBLATT



In 835, All Saints Day was intentionally changed to November 1 to Christianize the existing pagan time for remembering the dead in order to bring light to the darkness and hope to the most basic of human fears—that of death. All Saints Day remembers those who have died in the faith, and thus it is a time to remember that their death was victory, not defeat, and celebration, not mourning; for Resurrection changes the way the world looks upon death! In Holy Communion, the “breaking of the bread” as the New Testament speaks of it, we experience “the communion of saints” in which not even death can break the unity in Jesus which St. Paul had named “the Body of Christ”.

So some of the traditional ways we celebrate Halloween go back to a time when All Hallows Eve was a time to dress up as skeletons and devils *in order to **make fun of death and evil and Satan*** because they had all been defeated by God through the death and resurrection of Jesus! Halloween is a time to taunt death and evil because it now has *no power over us*! We should be able to laugh at the dark side and dress up in costumes and have parties. We can celebrate with creativity and joyous good fun in a way that helps us reclaim our faith and become the saints we are called by God to be! Put together, Halloween and All Saints Day is one big victory celebration! Have a blessed Halloween and All Saints Day! And I hope to see you in church to celebrate all the saints on November 5 (and remember the time change)!

-Pastor Carol Custead

Contribution & Attendance Summary

August 2016

Contributions \$1,970

Average Weekly Attendance: 31

August 2017

Contributions \$1,857

Average Weekly Attendance: 22

INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY

August 1, 2017 - August 31, 2017

INCOME

Bank Interest	\$0.03
Contributions	
General	\$1,697.00
Designated	\$160.00
Special	\$0.00
Other Income	\$233.42
	<hr/>
	\$2090.45

EXPENSES

Pastoral Administration	\$2,046.94
Worship & Music	\$498.44
Office	\$1,110.91
Custodial & Property	\$1,387.93
Uncategorized	\$2,149.93
	<hr/>
	\$7,194.15

November Flower Chart
and Bulletin's

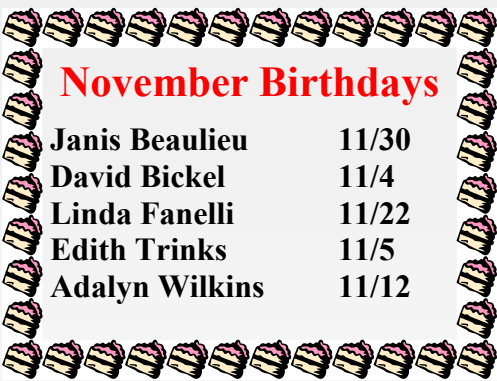
Altar:

5
12
19
26

Bulletins:

5
12
19
26

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



November Birthdays

Janis Beaulieu	11/30
David Bickel	11/4
Linda Fanelli	11/22
Edith Trink	11/5
Adalyn Wilkins	11/12



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:

Tim Surkovich

David Bickel

(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

Graystone Manor//Bellmeade

Robert Civils

Garvey Manor

Phyllis Spinazzola

Presbyterian Village in Hollidaysburg:

Charlie Green

Patti Green

In their own homes:

Deborah Manbeck

John Wiederkehr

Glenn Dell

Marlene Leonard

Remember In Your Prayers

From the Office of the Bishop....

Betty Jane Moore's family has asked us to share that **Betty Jane** (widow of Pastor Clarence Moore) had a mild stroke, but her prognosis for recovery is very good. She is currently in Somerset Hospital, but will be heading into a rehabilitation facility this week. Betty Jane and her family appreciate prayers for healing. Cards may be sent to Betty Jane's address (1408 Hay St., Apt. G, Berlin, PA 15530) and her family will see that she receives them.

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@gmail.com

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

A Greeting and Thank You from Bishop Michael

To the Saints of the Allegheny Synod,

May God's grace and the love and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Thank you for your partnership in our ministry together as the Allegheny Synod. It is a blessing of God and truly amazing the way in which you reach out to the world, responding to needs both in our community and in our world and sharing the love of Jesus Christ with our neighbors. All that we do and can do happens because Jesus Christ is alive is here with us in the heart of Pennsylvania.

The success our Allegheny Synod Can Challenge has had over the past three years testifies to the ways in which the Holy Spirit is working through you to care for your neighbor. The Allegheny Synod leads the nation in contributions to the Lutheran World Relief Blanket Sunday offerings each year. You continually respond to calls from Lutheran Disaster Response after earthquakes in Haiti and Mexico, flooding in West Virginia and South Carolina, and most recently in the wake of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. You feed and clothe your communities by supporting your local food and clothing pantries, and some of you are the food and clothing pantries for your communities. Where there is a need, you respond and you help. Thank you for listening to God's call to care for people who are vulnerable and hurting. We thank God that we are invited to be part of our Lord's healing work in this world.

I thank God for our leaders. We are blessed in our Synod with deacons and pastors who are among the best in the ELCA. Our leaders love Jesus Christ and they love you. God has gifted us richly with quality rostered ministers and the gifts they bring to care for God's people here in the heart of Pennsylvania. We are truly blessed. To our deacons and pastors, thank you for your service to Christ and the gospel.

***Cont next page**

We also are blessed by God to have a dedicated team of lay worship leaders in our Synod. These are the people who participate in the Ignite Program (formerly DYD program) to be trained in the basics of leading worship and the life of the church. They undergo what can be a two-year program of study to be able to lead worship in those congregations that don't currently have, or possibly are not able to call, a pastor. Our lay worship leaders are a blessing to us. If you know anyone who is in or has been in this program, please thank them for their service to our church and our Synod.

We thank God for the way the Holy Spirit is raising up people to consider seminary and life in ministry. As of this writing, we have 16 people from the Allegheny Synod in our candidacy process. In 2014 we had two people in the process. God has blessed us. That has happened because you, the Allegheny Synod, have prayed for, encouraged, and supported these people in your congregations as they have started this journey. Please continue to pray that God will raise up leaders for our church.

Finally, I want to thank the staff of your Synod Office. Our staff works very hard to work with you and support you in your ministry. They are selfless in their love of our Synod and their love for you. Thank you Michelle, Marty Jo, Pastor Paula, and Pastor Tim for your service.

It is a blessing to serve in the Allegheny Synod. As we begin this fourth year together, please know that you are always in my prayers. I pray that God will continue to bless and lead our Synod. Christ is with us. Christ is alive here in the heart of Pennsylvania. May we continue to be led and opened to where our Lord Jesus is leading us.

In Christ,
Bp Michael Rhyne

Dear Friends,

We have had another shooting in our country, now we weep with and for the people of Las Vegas. This is the most-deadly mass shooting in our history with over 50 killed and 400 injured. This appears to have been carried out by someone with no exterior motive other than their own hatred, anger, and desire to strike out at the innocent. We lift the victims and their family to God and pray that our Lord will comfort those who mourn.

Below I have attached a copy of the letter which the ELCA Conference of Bishops released in 2013 in the aftermath of the murders at Sandy Hook. The sentiments expressed by the Bishops at that time are still fitting today.

In the wake of these murders, let us all lift to God those who are suffering the loss of friends and loved ones.

May God be with you and hold all in the peace of Christ.

+Bp Michael

A Pastoral Letter from the Conference of Bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

A Pastoral Letter on Violence adopted by the ELCA Conference of Bishops, March 4, 2013

“A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.”

Jeremiah 31:15 and Matthew 2:18 (NIV)

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

Every faithful caregiver who sits with victims of violence knows what we know – as God's church, we are called to reduce violence and should, in most cases, restrain ourselves from using violence. Whether or not statistics show that overall violence has declined in recent years, every person wounded or killed is a precious child of God.

As bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we lament the tragedy of gun violence in our country. We are grieved by the way violence threatens and destroys life. We affirm the current soul searching and shared striving to find a way to a better future.

While the church grapples with this call to reduce violence and make our communities safer, we recognize that before God we are neither more righteous because we have guns nor are we more righteous when we favor significant restrictions. Brokenness and sin are not somehow outside of us. Even the best of us are capable of great evil. As people of God we begin by confessing our own

brokenness – revealed in both our actions and our failure to act. We trust that God will set us free and renew us in our life's work to love our neighbors.

In this time of public attention to gun violence, local communities of faith have a unique opportunity to engage this work. As bishops, we were thankful to recognize the many resources our church has already developed (see below). We begin by listening: listening to God, to Scripture, and to each other. Providing a safe place for people to share their own stories, together we discern courses of action. Together we act. And together we return to listening – to assess the effectiveness of our efforts to reduce violence.

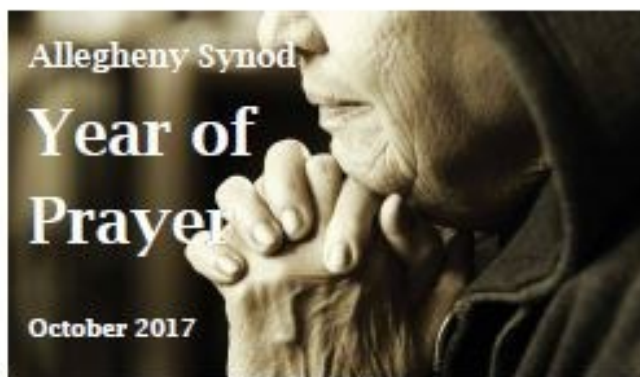
In the Large Catechism Luther says, “We must not kill, either by hand, heart, or word, by signs or gestures, or by aiding and abetting.” Violence begins in the human heart. Words can harm or heal. To focus only on guns is to miss the depth of our vocation. Yet, guns and access are keys to the challenges we face. We recognize that we serve in different contexts and have different perspectives regarding what can and should be done. But as we live out our common vocations, knowing that the work will take many forms, we are committed to the work of reducing and restraining violence. This shared work is a sign of our unity in Christ.

We invite you, our sisters and brothers, to join us in this work:

- **The work of lament** – creating safe space for naming, praying, grieving, caring for one another, and sharing the hope in God’s promise of faithfulness
- **The work of moral formation and discernment** – listening to scripture, repenting, modeling conflict resolution in daily life, addressing bullying, conducting respectful conversations, and discerning constructive strategies to reduce violence
- **The work of advocacy** – acting to address the causes and effects of violence Knowing that we are not saved by this work, we undertake it trusting in Christ Jesus, who laid down his life for the world and who calls us to be peacemakers, to pursue justice, and to protect the vulnerable.

In this, as in all things, Christ is with us.

Thanks be to God.



The Allegheny Synod Year of Prayer is a year-long effort to engage our members in prayer for others and for the world.

This month we pray for the Holy Spirit's continual Reformation of us

Week 1: For us to be attentive to the Holy Spirit's movement

Week 2: A continued commitment to reform, renew, and revive the church

Week 3: Our ecumenical partners as we continue to be 'on the way' together

Week 4: Give thanks for Martin Luther and all the reformers through the ages who have sought to unify the Church



WELCA AND FRIENDS

*MARK YOUR HOLIDAY CALENDAR AND
PLAN TO JOIN US!*

WHEN...Saturday, December 9 at 12 noon

WHAT.....WELCA Christmas luncheon

WHERE...Gold room US Hotel in Hollidaysburg...Order from menu

WHO.....WELCA and guests....husbands....friends...
relatives...anyone

WHY.....Special guest will be St. Nickolas of Myra who is known to be
a wonder-worker. His story would influence future generations to
demonstrate kindness to children.

WONDERFUL.... bring unwrapped rattle or toy for newborn to 2 year
old child.

WHAT ELSE..... Pastor Carol will play guitar and lead us in some
Christmas carols.

PLEASE JOIN US DECEMBER 9! ALL ARE WELCOME!

Sign up.... by calling church office (944-6835) by December 4.

Next Meeting November 4 9am

Nov 1—Matthew 5:1-12, Psalm 39:1-8

Lord Jesus, how You bless us in this life. We remember those You have gathered to Yourself in eternity. Keep us in that same blessed faith unto death. Amen

Nov 2—Matthew 21:23-27, Psalm 97

Heavenly Father, continue to wash us clean in the Water of Life that flows from Your throne. Amen

Nov 3—Matthew 22:1-14, Psalm 51:11-19

Lord God, heavenly Father, let me never take faith for granted. Give me grace to come weekly to the marriage feast of the Lamb that comes to us in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Amen

Nov 4—Matthew 22:34-46, Psalm 104:1-30

O God, by grace increase my faith, that I may by grace love You and my neighbor as I ought. In Jesus' name. Amen

Nov 5—Matthew 23:1-12, Psalm 119

"On my heart imprint Your image, Blessed Jesus, King of grace" (LSB 422). Amen

Nov 6—Matthew 23:13-19, Psalm 136

O Jesus, woe to me, for I am a sinner. Woe to You, for You become sin to save me. Joy and gladness to You, for You rose from the dead, taking away all the curses that should have been mine. Amen

Nov 7—Matthew 24:1-28, Psalm 123

Come quickly, Lord Jesus! Amen

Nov 8—James 5:13-16, Psalm 15

Lord Jesus, give me grace to confess my sins and receive Your forgiveness. Amen

Nov 9—Romans 1:15-17, Psalm 36

Lord Jesus, thank You for giving us good teachers, like Chemnitz, who teach us of You. Amen

Nov 10—Galatians 3:10-14, Psalm 46

O God, keep us in the one true faith, by which alone we are saved. Amen

Nov 11—Acts 10:1-4, Psalm 56

O Lord, help me to be a little St. Martin in my corner of the world. Amen

Nov 12—Matthew 26:1-13, Psalm 68:1-18

Lord God, heavenly Father, You withheld nothing to save me. Give me grace to hold nothing back from You. In Jesus' name. Amen

Nov 13—Matthew 26:26-29, Psalm 51:1-10

Lord Jesus, thank You for coming to us in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Amen

Nov 14—Matthew 26:36-46, Psalm 54

O Jesus, thank You for obeying the Father, that I might be saved. Amen

Nov 15—Matthew 26:69-75, Psalm 65

Lord God, heavenly Father, forgive me if I deny Jesus by my words and deeds.

Amen

Nov 16—Matthew 27:1-10, Psalm 143

Lord Jesus, let me never despair of Your mercy. Amen

Nov 17—Matthew 27:32-35, Psalm 86

O Jesus, let me help You as I help others, if only for a step. Amen

Nov 18—Matthew 27:45-50, Psalm 22

O Jesus, what comfort You give me in my anguish, knowing that You will never let me go. Amen

Nov 19—Luke 8:1-3, Psalm 110

Lord, help me emulate the example of St. Elizabeth, who did good works by Your Grace. Amen

Nov 20—Matthew 28:1-10, Psalm 62

Lord, thank You for revealing Your love and mercy to me. Amen

Nov 21—Revelation 18:1-3, Psalm 13

O Christ, keep my mind on heavenly things. Amen

Nov 22—Revelation 19:1-10, Psalm 96

Lord Jesus, thank You for forgiving my sins and including me in Your kingdom. Amen

Nov 23—Luke 17:11-19, Psalm 116

O Lord Jesus, thank You for cleansing me from the leprosy of sin. Amen

Nov 24—Revelation 21:1-8, Psalm 85

Lord Jesus, keep me faithful unto death, that I may inherit eternal life. Amen

Nov 25—Revelation 21:9-27, Psalm 61

Heavenly Father, hasten the day when we will forever dwell in the Holy City. Amen

Nov 26—Matthew 25:1-13, Psalm 103

Dear Lord, keep me awake and watchful for Your coming at all times. Amen

Nov 27—1 Peter 1:1-12, Psalm 122

O Holy Spirit, thank You for the sure hope of eternal life You give us in Christ. Amen

Nov 28—1 Peter 1:13-16, Psalm 33

Lord Jesus, be in me by faith; work through me by grace. Amen

Nov 29—2 Peter 2:1-10, Psalm 50

Lord, grant me grace always to hear the Word of God and keep it. Amen

Nov 30—1 Peter 2:13-25, Psalm 18:1-20

O Christ, let me continually partake of Your body, which bore my sins away. Amen



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 ccustead@atlanticbb.net
The church office email is stjamesaltoona@gmail.com 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.******

***DEADLINE FOR THE DEEMBER ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS,
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15.***

Announcements and Upcoming Events

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE	OCT 31 10:30AM
CHOIR PRACTICE	NOV 2 7PM
WELCA MEETING	NOV 4 9AM
SWEETS AND TREATS	NOV 5 10AM
BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE	NOV 7 10:30AM
CHOIR PRACTICE	NOV 9 7PM
BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE	NOV 14 10:30AM
COUNCIL MEETING	NOV 14 6PM
KIRCHENBLATT ARTICLE DEALINE	NOV 15 12PM
CHOIR PRACTICE	NOV 16 7PM
POTLUCK DINNER	NOV 19
BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE	NOV 20 10:30AM
CHOIR PRACTICE	NOV 23 7PM
POINSETTIA ORDER DEADLINE	NOV 26
BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE	NOV 28 10:30AM

Choir Schedule



SCHEDULE:

Nov 2	7pm
Nov 9	7pm
Nov 16	7pm
Nov 23	7pm

Announcements and Upcoming Events

THANKSGIVING AT ST. JAMES

There will be **NO** Thanksgiving Day service at St. James this year. However, the holiday and its call to gratitude will be highlighted on the Sunday before in the regular St. James worship. Please join us for worship on that Sunday, and, of course, remember to include prayer and devotion to your celebrating on Thanksgiving Day.



**SWEETS AND TREATS
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF
EACH MONTH.**

**The next Sweets and Treats is
November 5th!**



***Allegheny Chorale
Christmas Concert***

Tuesday, December 5, 2017

First Presbyterian Church

Tyrone, PA

7 PM



Christmas Poinsettias

Bless our Sanctuary and your home this Christmas with a beautiful red poinsettia! For each \$7.50 you contribute to the St. James Flower Fund, a flower will be placed in the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve and will be available for you to take with you following our Christmas Eve Service. If you would rather donate the flower for a shut-or or friend of St. James, you may indicate that choice on this order form.

Please complete the form and return it to the church. **The deadline for poinsettia orders and payments is Sunday, November 26, 2017.** Thank you for your generosity in this endeavor!

Your Name _____
(as you wish it to appear in the bulletin)

This donation is made:

In Honor of: _____
Or
In Memory of: _____

Amount of Contribution: _____

Number of Christmas Poinsettias: _____

Envelope Number: _____

Please check one:

_____ Yes, I do want to take the poinsettia (s) home with me.

_____ No. I don't want to take the poinsettia (s). I would like them to be given to a shut in or friend of St. James

***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.





We would like to thank DAVID S. RILEY Interior/Exterior Painting, phone number 317-5850 from Duncansville, PA for the painting of our church doors. A big thank you for all of the extras! A JOB WELL DONE!



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

Worship & Music

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

By-Laws

***Mark Hoover**
*Betty Boslet
*Carolyn Feather
*Debra Morgan
Edith Trinks

Christian Education/

Social Ministry

***Evelyn Holsinger**

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

Finance

***Mark Hoover**

*Betty Boslet
*Donna Wilt
*Bill Wilt
Ralph Grove

Stewardship/Evangelism

***Donna Wilt**

*Dana Detwiler
*Carolyn Feather
Janet Kauffman

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—?