Kirchenblatt September 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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<tr>
<th>Birthdays</th>
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<td>6</td>
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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.
“Life is Good…Consider the Slug!”

“Life is good!” So say my favorite t-shirts that I wear much over the summer. There is a whole line of t-shirts in the “Life is good” series. My favorite is the one with the stick-figure guy sitting before a campfire playing his guitar. Even though life has has a few bumps over the years, I still tenaciously cling to the belief that “Life is good!” And I believe that it is good for one reason alone...it comes from God!

Yes, “Life is good!” No matter how difficult it gets, God is still good and God will work his goodness out of anything that can happen to those who love him. That is the promise we find St. Paul writing about in Romans 8:28, which I recently preached about—“For we know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose.”

The evidence is all around us even in simple things! Consider the slug, for example. Now I do know that slugs are an annoyance when they appear in our gardens, and we really must get rid of them or they will destroy our plants. But...have you ever taken a close-up look at them? They are actually kind of cute in their own way, with those little antennas going in and out and every which way!

And...have you ever seen them in the forest where they occur naturally? They belong there! They are a part of the whole “eco-system” and they play an important role in it all. Yes, even their life is good in the purpose God had intended for them in creation! God even gave them a built-in defense system to keep them safe from would-be predators! (I learned this once from a naturalist at Camp Sequanota.)
Did you know that the slug’s slime is actually very clean and that if you simply touch your tongue to a slug a tiny bit of slime will stick to your tongue and make it go numb? Yep! I tried it when the naturalist challenged me to, being reassured that it was perfectly safe! And my tongue went numb for a few minutes! This irk-some effect on my tongue actually causes a much greater reaction with a would-be predator and they only have to encounter this once before they learn to stay away from the slugs! Isn’t this an example from nature on the goodness of life (all life great and small) as God has created it?

It gives a new twist, doesn’t it, to the saying of Jesus in Luke’s gospel (12:22-31)...“Consider the slugs of the forest, how they move about at a very slow pace and could be easily caught and swallowed up by some hungry creature. Yet God has protected them and covered them with slime. Of how much more value are you than the slugs! And can any of you by your scurrying about add a single hour to your span of life? If you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest?...”

Yes, life is good—because it has been given and created by God himself, and all is in his good care even when it is difficult and seems otherwise. And life is good because God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good. May your days be blessed with His goodness!

--Pastor Carol Custead
News and Notes from Council

ST. JAMES EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
August 15, 2017 AT 6:00PM

Church Minutes: Minutes from July 11, 2017 were reviewed. Motion to accept made by Donna Wilt. Seconded by Carolyn Feather. Motion carried.

Pastor’s Report: Both Pastors have done more home communion visits with members. St. Luke’s would like to get together with St. James for a meeting. Mark, Pastor Scott, Pastor Carol, Donna Foster, and Donna Wilt have agreed to meet with them. A Reformation service will be held October 29 at 3:00 pm at First Lutheran. There will be a Reformation festival at Legion Park on October 14. There will be a candlelight service at the end. St. James will host a Revival service on September 14. Pastor Jackie Utley from Columbia, SC will be the guest preacher. There will also be a synod-wide Praise Band to lead the worship music. A cookie reception will be held after the service. Revelation software program update: Current members will be asked to fill out a membership record form.

Over the next few meetings, we will discuss options to make future decisions for St. James. There are 22 people signed up for the WELCA trip on September 8. The deadline to sign up is August 27.

A motion to accept was made by Evelyn. Seconded by Donna Foster. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report: Ralph went over his report explaining a few items. A motion to accept was made by Bill Wilt, seconded by Carolyn. Motion carried.

Finance: A meeting with Marty Kooman needs to be set up. Mark has 3 different dates to choose from for the committee. Betty, Donna Wilt, Mark, and Ralph will decide which date works.

Christian Education/ Social Ministry: September 3 will be Sweets and Treats, and September 17 will be the Pot Luck luncheon. Roast beef will be the meat served.

Property Committee: The paint color for the church doors was decided. David Riley will do the painting. Bill Wilt will contact him to start the work.
ST. JAMES EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
August 15, 2017 AT 6:00PM

Stewardship/Evangelism: The membership form will be passed out to current members.

Worship and Music: No report.

Mutual Ministry: No report.

By-Laws Committee: No report.

Old Business: The annual Lay Worship meeting will be held at St. James on August 26 from 9-3. A catered lunch will be served.

New Business: The youth money will be donated to Camp Sequanota. Donna Foster made the motion which Donna Wilt seconded. Motion carried.
The Pastors will determine where the games from the basement can be donated. Donna Foster made a motion, and Evelyn seconded. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS: No report.

Donna Wilt made a motion, second from Bill, motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 7:20. Pastor Scott said a prayer, and we followed it with the Lord’s Prayer.
**INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY**

**June 1, 2017 - June 30, 2017**

**INCOME**

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<td>Contributions</td>
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<td>General</td>
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<tr>
<td>Designated</td>
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<td>Special</td>
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<td>Other Income</td>
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**EXPENSES**

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<tr>
<td>Uncategorized</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,270.08</strong></td>
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**September Flower Chart and Bulletin’s**

Altar:
- 3
- 10
- 17
- 24

Bulletins:
- 3
- 10
- 17
- 24

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

**September Birthdays**

- Joyce Albright 9/27
- William Dambeck 9/9
- Adam Fanelli 9/22
- William Good 9/2
- Robert Holsinger 9/5
- Brad Stehle 9/18
- Lynn Vandevander 9/25
- Kim Vandenvander 9/21
- William Wilt 9/15

**Contribution & Attendance Summary**

**June 2016**

- Contributions $2,148.00
- Average Weekly Attendance: 27

**June 2017**

- Contributions $1,488.90
- Average Weekly Attendance: 21
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       John Wiederkehr
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

*Homewood of Altoona:*
  Dick Potter

*Graystone Manor//Bellmeade*
  Robert Civils

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....

See Year of Prayer
See Next Page

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.
WELCA EVENTS

No WELCA MEETINGS in August.

September's meeting will be September 8th (Friday) our bus trip to Camp Sequanota. All are welcome. See next page.
Next scheduled meeting for WELCA will be October 14th (Saturday) at 9:00a.m. at St. James.
WELCA's trip to Camp Sequanota  
Friday September 8, 2017

All are welcome to attend and it is **FREE!!!!!!!**

Please sign up if you plan on attending this one day fun trip!

Departing—10:30 AM from St. James.

*Last day to sign up is Sunday, August 27.  *This trip will be a go, rain or shine!

Lots of fun and much to see as we tour Camp Sequanota. It will take approximately one hour and a half to travel. Lunch will be provided at the camp including some vegetables from the camp's garden. On the way back home, we will stop at Flight 93 Memorial. Transportation will be provided. Please again, sign up so we can plan on how many will be attending. Remember: it is **FREE!!!!** Come and enjoy the ride, the lunch and the tours. Sign up today and put in the offering plate or call the church office at 944-6835

Name: __________________________________________________

Number Attending: ______________________

Any specials needs? ____________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

*The trip is being provided by a financial grant from Thrivent Financial.*
ATTENTION MARRIED COUPLES: If you haven’t already signed up for your Fall Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend, don’t delay. Sign up today! The September Weekend (September 15-17 Weekend at Spruce Lake Retreat Center in the Poconos) has only a very few openings remaining. The October 6-8 Weekend is to be held at a beautiful location in the foothills of the Berkshire Mountains overlooking a lake--the Black Swan Inn in Lee, Massachusetts--and we do currently have openings for this one.

Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and all supplies are included with your $100 per couple registration fee, plus toward the end of the weekend you will be given an opportunity to make a confidential contribution of whatever amount you wish toward the continuation of the program. Sign up today by going to the website: www.GodLovesMarriage.org and paying the registration fee with your credit card, or marking the option to mail a check. For questions, or if you would like a brochure with registration form mailed to you, contact Northeast US Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at: fjschamber@comcast.net or 724-325-3166.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sep 1—Exodus 3:1-15, Psalm 86</th>
<th>Eternal One, thank You for being with us in all Your forms. Amen</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sep 2—Genesis 9:8-17, Psalm 108</td>
<td>Dear Jesus, thank You for talking on flesh and living up to what we never could. Amen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 3—Numbers 28:1-15, Psalm 50</td>
<td>Lamb of God, help us in the Sacrament of Holy Communion to honor Your sacrifice. Amen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 4—Ecclesiastes 3, Psalm 128</td>
<td>God, as we work our way through life, may we be faithful to the end. Amen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 5—Genesis 3:14-23, Psalm 141</td>
<td>Father God, we give thanksgiving for Your plan of restoration and salvation. Amen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 6—1 Peter 2:13-25, Psalm 104:31-35</td>
<td>Lord, help me to accept my place in Your kingdom with humility. Amen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 7—Genesis 1:26-31, Psalm 144</td>
<td>God, in sincere thanksgiving for the grace we do not deserve, please help us to remain Your steadfast children. Amen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 8—Luke 6:27-37, Psalm 25</td>
<td>Guided by the Holy Spirit, help us to remember the gift of mercy and forgive one another as we have been so undeservedly forgiven. Amen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 9—1 Peter 3:21-22, Psalm 24</td>
<td>“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me”. Amen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 10—1 Corinthians 3, Psalm 37:1-11</td>
<td>Jesus, open our hearts to listen to the reconciling power of Your voice. Amen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 11—Lamentations 3:19-26, Psalm 30</td>
<td>Lord, comfort us in the moments of hurt and anxiety we experience in this world, and keep our spirits faithful to the end. Amen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 12—Matthew 1:1-17, Psalm 2</td>
<td>God, thank You for planning our salvation. Amen</td>
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<td>Sep 13—Matthew 8:23-27, Psalm 40</td>
<td>Holy Spirit, help us as we wrestle with doubts and strengthen our faith in the Savior. Amen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Scripture Referenced</td>
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<td>Sep 14</td>
<td>1 Corinthians 1:18-31, Psalm 18:31-36</td>
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<td>Sep 15</td>
<td>Mark 14:66-72, Psalm 13</td>
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<td>Sep 16</td>
<td>Acts 22:1-16, Psalm 119:1-24</td>
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<td>Sep 17</td>
<td>Deuteronomy 11:18-23, Psalm 119:81-88</td>
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<td>Sep 18</td>
<td>John 1:1-14, Psalm 119:89-95</td>
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<td>Sep 19</td>
<td>Matthew 13:10-16, Psalm 119:129-152</td>
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<td>Sep 20</td>
<td>Job 42:1-6, Psalm 27</td>
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<td>Sep 21</td>
<td>Proverbs 9:1-6, Psalm 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 22</td>
<td>John 20:19-31, Psalm 33</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 23</td>
<td>Isaiah 53, Psalm 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 24</td>
<td>John 3:1-21, Psalm 109</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 25</td>
<td>Psalm 73, Psalm 32</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
   Lord, may we be among those whose faith is planted deeply. Amen

Sep 27—Jonah 1, Psalm 7
   Dear Jesus, thank You for being the perfect missionary. Amen

Sep 28—Genesis 37:1-28, Psalm 103
   God, thank You for giving us Your Son and a hope-filled future. Amen

Sep 29—Hebrews 1:7-2:9, Psalm 148
   Dear Jesus, thank You for being both the messenger and the instrument for our salvation. Amen

Sep 30—Matthew 15:21-28, Psalm 145
   Mighty Savior, grant me the persistent faith of the Canaanite woman. Amen

A special thank you to Pastor Scott for the visits and communion, and also to Pastor Carol for the phone calls. Thank you all from St. James for the Get Well Wishes and your phone calls.

Love and Prayers
Dave & Jean Bickel
SCHEDULE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 13</td>
<td>6pm</td>
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<td>Sept 20</td>
<td>6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 27</td>
<td>6pm</td>
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**SWEETS AND TREATS**

The first Sunday of each month.

**THE NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS** is September 3rd!
Allegheny Synod's
Renew, Rejoice, Revive
Service
Thursday, September 14th
7:00 PM
St. James, Altoona

We will welcome Pastor Jackie Utley from Columbia, SC as our guest preacher. Ryan Custead is the lead for a synod-wide Praise Band to lead the worship music.

Come out and join us!
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 OCTOBER ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15.
This is a new system put in by Blair County. You are highly encouraged to participate. It’s free! It can help save many lives.

Smart911™
IS HERE!

What would you like 911 Dispatchers and First Responders to know about your family, to help save time in an emergency?

- Family Members
- Cell Phones
- Medications
- Disabilities
- Pets and Service Animals
- Pictures of Family Members and Pets
- Make/Model/Color of Your Cars
- Emergency Contact Information
- Floor Plans for your Home or Business
- Allergies
- Tailor Your Account to Suit Your Family’s needs

There is no cost for this service.
You will be reminded to update your profile several times a year. If you have questions call 814-940-5901.

Smart911.com
Sign up today. Because every second counts.
### 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.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mutual Ministry</th>
<th>Worship &amp; Music</th>
<th>By-Laws</th>
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<td><em>Dana Detwiler</em></td>
<td><em>Mark Hoover</em></td>
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<td><em>Evelyn Holsinger</em></td>
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<td><em>Betty Boslet</em></td>
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<td>Joe Yanke</td>
<td><em>Mark Hoover</em></td>
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<td><em>Donna Wilt</em></td>
<td>Pat McConnell</td>
<td>Edith Trinks</td>
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<td>Phyllis Spinazzola</td>
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<th>Christian Education/Social Ministry</th>
<th>Finance</th>
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<td><em>David Manbeck</em></td>
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<td><em>Debra Morgan</em></td>
<td>Ralph Grove</td>
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<td><em>Bill Wilt</em></td>
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<td><em>David Manbeck</em></td>
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<td>Mike Savino</td>
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* Denotes Council Member  
Thrivent Rep—Robin Kessler  
A.L.S.M. Rep—?