



# Kirchenblatt November 2016

(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](mailto:scustead@atlanticbb.net) or [ccustead@atlanticbb.net](mailto:ccustead@atlanticbb.net)**

**OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY-THURSDAY 9 AM-1PM**

**EMAIL: [STJAMESALTOONA@VERIZON.NET](mailto:STJAMESALTOONA@VERIZON.NET)**

**WEBSITE: [WWW.STJAMESALTOONA.ORG](http://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 2016



We had a praying mantis on our porch yesterday afternoon. I probably chased it out of the rose bushes while I was pruning them. I did notice some aphid damage on the plants. I imagine the mantis was making a home on the roses and eating those aphids. Mantises are really cool bugs.

Our porch visitor was about five inches long. It was bright green with a rust color tinting its folded wings. Carol put her hand by it for perspective as I was taking a picture of it with my phone. It proceeded to crawl up her arm, look into her eye, reach out and touch her lips, and then fly off to find more aphids or flies or whatever other tasting prey might be about.

The world is full of wonders. We often get so busy, so entertained, so worried, so distracted, so focused that we fail to notice the treasures that are all around us. I find fall to be a season that inspires me to notice. Because I grew up in Los Angeles, I never really had fall in my early years. I had summer and not summer. Once I moved to Pennsylvania I began to experience the change of the seasons and the beauty of fall. It still seems unreal to me. I love to stand in the woods on a sunny day surrounded by bright yellow maple leaves. It is so different than what I knew the world to look like that it jars me out my general lack of awareness.

Imagine if I could recognize that every moment is packed with wonders beyond my imagination. My beating heart, the smells in the air, the colors of the things around me, the sounds that I am failing to notice, the presence of God that knits it all together. Every now and then a beautiful fall day or a really cool bug will make me take notice of all that for which I should be thankful.

This month we have a holiday that is intended to do the same. Unfortunately we can get lost in the planning of events, the process of cooking the meals, the family squabbles, the cleaning of the kitchen, and so much more. I hope at least a couple of times in this month of Thanksgiving to notice all the wonders and gifts God has placed before me. I hope to not only have a nice piece of pie (or two), I hope to truly savor that pie. I hope to find God's gracious presence in the simplest of places. I hope you do to.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving,  
Pastor Scott

### Contribution & Attendance Summary

#### August 2015

Contributions \$2,731  
Average Weekly Attendance: 26

#### August 2016

Contributions \$1,970.00  
Average Weekly Attendance: 31

### INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY

#### August 1, 2016 - August 31, 2016

#### INCOME

Bank Interest	\$ .10
Contributions	
General	\$1,860.00
Designated	\$110.00
Special	\$205.00
Other Income	\$34,609.95
	<hr/>
	\$36,785.05

#### EXPENSES

Pastoral Administration	\$3,441.01
Worship & Music	\$1,188.98
Office	\$1,063.67
Custodial & Property	\$714.79
Uncategorized	\$7,183.71
	<hr/>
	\$13,592.16

### November Flower Chart and Bulletin's

#### Altar:

6  
13  
20  
27

#### Bulletins:

6  
13  
20  
27

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

### November Birthdays

Janis Beaulieu	11/30
David Bickel	11/4
Glenn Dell	11/12
Linda Fanelli	11/22
Elizabeth Roudabush	11/13
Edith Trinks	11/5
Adalyn Wilkins	11/12

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## **News and Notes from Council**

**ST. JAMES EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**October 11, 2016 AT 6:00PM**

### **DEVOTIONS:**

Devotions were offered by Pastor Scott

### **CHURCH MINUTES:**

Minutes from September 13, 2016 were reviewed with no corrections.. Evelyn Holsinger made a motion to accept. Donna Foster seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **PASTOR'S REPORT:**

A congregational membership update meeting will be setup between Pastor Scott, Pastor Carol, Donna Wilt and Dana Detwiler. Advent Services were discussed. Visitation report was given by the Pastors.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Ralph Grove went over the figures with no corrections. Donna Wilt made a motion to accept. Dana Detwiler seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

Mark Hoover handed out the Finance Committee's recommended Ministry Spending Plan for 2016-2017.

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION/SOCIAL MINISTRY:**

Sweets and Treats for November will be sponsored by Joe Yanke. Nittany Knights Chorus Concert went well but had low attendance. Octoberfest will be held October 16, 2016 after worship. The Allegheny Chorale Concert will be held on December 4, 2016 at 3:00pm (Set up is at 1:30pm)



**PROPERTY COMMITTEE:**

The elevator will be weight tested Thursday October 13, 2016. All the EXIT signs must be illuminated and emergency lighting must be installed throughout the entire building. Carpet and paint needs to be replaced in the large Sunday School Room. The Thermostat in the Sunday School Room needs a new battery.

**STEWARDSHIP/EVANGELISM COMMITTEE:**

Donna Wilt and Dana Detwiler met on Monday October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Bible Study will be held as a very informal get together. Communion will be set-up as usual. Membership names and addresses will be updated by Dana Detwiler, Donna Foster, Pastor Scott and Pastor Carol. Mike Savino is interested in changing the Hymnal Boards and rewording them. Tim and Mike will be working on the changes.

**WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE:**

Hand Bell update coming in the Fall.

**MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE:**

A meeting will be scheduled with Pastor Scott and Carol.

**BY-LAWS COMMITTEE:**

ELCA Constitution and By-Laws have been changed and are now available on the website.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The Call Committee and Ministry Site Profile will be discussed further in November. The Annual Congregational Meeting is set for November 13<sup>th</sup> after services. No meal will be served.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Nomination of two new council officers. Stepping down will be Donna Wilt, and Louisa Marshall(Deceased). Mark will be asking Mike Savino, Bob Hench and Robin Kessler. A request for a donation to the Hollidaysburg Youth Ministry Rescue Mission Project was presented. Betty Boslet made a motion to donate \$50. Sylvia Malsatski seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** None

Donna Foster made a motion to adjourn, Evelyn Holsingerseconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned by standing and reciting the Lord's Prayer.

# W.e.l.c.a.

## WELCA MINUTES

OCTOBER 8, 2016

PRESENT: Peggy Thatcher, Donna Foster, Sylvia Malsatski, Shirley Manbeck, Pastor Carol, Donna Wilt

Peggy Thatcher called the meeting to order. Devotions were lead by Peggy. We all participated in sharing our emotional temperature on how we feel currently. This way we were able to respond to each other during the meeting with more understanding and grace.

Donna Wilt read the minutes from September 10<sup>th</sup> event. Sylvia Malsatski made a motion to accept. Shirley Manbeck seconded the motion.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Shirley Manbeck resported the balance we have in our checking account is \$233.76. Sylvia Malsatski made a motion to accept. Donna Foster seconded the motion.

### SEVERAL DISCUSSIONS FOLLOWED:

Our Christmas Luncheon to be held on December 10<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 Noon at the U S Hotel in Hollidaysburg. This will take place of our regular meeting for December. Pastor Carol will bring a visit from Sancta Lucia. We are inviting all members of the church and their guests. We will have Tim put this in our bulletins and the Kirchenblatt for November and December. We are asking for reservations to be called into the church office on or before December 1<sup>st</sup>. We need to notify the U S Hotel for the number attending. The meal is at your own expense.

WELCA will again have a Mitten Tree in the Narthex starting November 1<sup>st</sup>. Sylvia Malsatski will bring in a tree for this event. They will be given to the Family and Children Services.

Peggy Thatcher asked Donna Wilt to give a report on WELCA for the Annual Congregational Meeting to be held on November 13<sup>th</sup> after church.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA TENTH TRIENNIAL GATHERING will be held July 13-16, 2017 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Peggy Thatcher was elected by the Allegheny Synod WELCA to be a delegate to this church wide event. She also reminded us that they changed their logo. A copy of this was given to Donna Wilt to give to Tim Surkovich for the bulletins and Kirchenblatt.

St James WELCA will give an offering to church wide WELCA. Last year we gave \$50. Peggy gave us all pens with WELCA'S logo.

Peggy Thatcher had us put our names in a basket and we had a drawing of three names. The prizes were T-shirts. Thank you Peggy.

NEXT MEETING: November 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am.

MEETING was adjourned at 10:30am with the Lord's Prayer.

Recording Secretary,  
Donna Wilt

*Registration opens September 6*



*all anew*

**WOMEN OF THE ELCA**

TENTH TRIENNIAL GATHERING

JULY 13-16, 2017

Minneapolis, Minnesota

*welcatg.org #welcatg*

*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:**

The Manbeck family  
 Sylvia Malsatzki  
 Doug Kauffman  
 John Wiederkehr  
 Dave & Jean Bickel  
 Joe Yanke  
 Brun Hilde Badorrek  
 Janet Kauffman  
 Donna Foster  
 Susan Boston  
 Dorie Hoover  
 Tim Surkovich  
 Debra Morgan  
 Ann Bartley  
 Tom Bartley  
 Terry Bartley  
 Jake Leonard  
 Those serving in our military



### **Homewood of Altoona:**

Dick Potter

### **Presbyterian Village in Hollidaysburg:**

Charlie Green  
 Patti Green

### **In their own homes:**

Becky Manbeck  
 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.



## OPEN HANDS, OPEN HEARTS

For some of us, when uncertainty and worry creep into our lives, we hold tightly to our resources. We cling to our earthly possessions believing it is the only way we can guarantee financial security.

The concept of living with open hands goes against both what we may have been taught and what we may think of as plain old common sense, but there can be great rewards in living with our hands open.

Throughout scripture we are encouraged to share what we have with others. In Deuteronomy 15 it reads, "You shall not ... shut your hand from your poor brother, but you shall open your hand wide to him." This idea is great in theory, but becomes uncomfortable when it's time to put it into practice in our own lives. Perhaps it's worth considering how keeping open hands may enrich our own lives.

Need a few ideas to help you get started?

- **Embrace gratitude:** Writing in a gratitude journal can be a fulfilling spiritual practice. Many studies have shown that writing three things you are grateful for each day has the power to transform your outlook and help you appreciate the fullness of your own life.
- **Value contentment:** Be on the lookout for things that bring a smile to your face. Maybe it's waking up to birds singing, the sound of a baby's laughter or watching God's daily artistry in the sunrise or sunset. None of these things can be bought or owned, yet they bring joy to your life in awesome ways!
- **Live generously:** The art of giving may take a while to learn, so here's an idea: Try adding a "giving" line item in your monthly budget to help make it a normal part of your monthly expenses. The more consistently you give, the more natural it will become.

By living in response to God's grace with an open hand, you can look forward to experiencing an emotional and spiritual return that will come your way, pressed down, shaken together and running over!



**THRIVENT  
FINANCIAL\***

*Connecting faith & finances for good.®*

Provided by:

Andrea K. Paul, CLTC, FIC

Financial Associate

(814)-695-3496 • [andrea.paul@thrivent.com](mailto:andrea.paul@thrivent.com)

Nov 1—Revelations 7:9-17, Psalm 106:43-48

Lord, guide and uplift Your family, Your Church, as we gather in Your name. Amen

Nov 2—Acts 8:1-8, Psalm 107:4-32

Sent by You, Lord, we spread the seed of Your Word wherever we go. Give us humility to seek Your guidance in every moment. Amen

Nov 3—2 Corinthians 7:8-16, Psalm 31:7-24

Father, thank You for sending Jesus to turn our grief into repentance and joy. Amen

Nov 4—Luke 15:1-10, Psalm 90:14-17

Lord, let Your joy pour through us so our rejoicing may never end. Amen

Nov 5—Numbers 23:1-12, Psalm 129

We honor You, Christ, for taking our curse and making us the blessed ones of God. Amen

Nov 6—Matthew 5:1-12, Psalm 128

Lord, as You have blessed us, make us a blessing to others. Amen

Nov 7—Matthew 16:21-28, Psalm 143

Lord, undeniably You save us. Destroy all our doubt. Amen

Nov 8—Romans 10:5-13, Psalm 32

Eternal Word, make our every syllable and action a confession of Your greatness. Amen

Nov 9—1 John 3:1-10, Psalm 111

In gratitude, Jesus, we thank You for covering our flaws with Your perfect love. Amen

Nov 10—2 Psalm 50, Psalm 113

Lord, shape our lives and words always to please and praise You. Amen

Nov 11—Isaiah 49:13-23, Psalm 25:1-7

Lord, may our memories of Your salvation move us always to action. Amen

Nov 12—Hebrews 8, Psalm 9

Forgetting our sins, You give us life. Lord, keep me from forgetting this mercy and grace. Amen

Nov 13—Mark 13:1-13, Psalm 39

Unending One, keep me faithful to You in tears, trials, and torments so that I may endure to and through life's end. Amen

Nov 14—1 Peter 1:3-12, Psalm 148

Creator, let us begin and end each day praising Your provision. Amen

Nov 15—Hebrews 10:11-18, Psalm 110

God, lead us to eagerly receive the gifts Your Son has earned. Amen.

Nov 16—Matthew 5:38-48, Psalm 78:5-31

Father, as You freely love us, let us love one another without demand or condition.

Amen

Nov 17—Galatians 2:16-21, Psalm 119:1-16

Lord, remind us every day that there is no life apart from You. Amen

Nov 18—Hebrews 2:9-18, Psalm 18:1-6

Conqueror of death, eclipse our fears with in You. Amen

Nov 19—Isaiah 65:17-25, Psalm 3

Lord of Life, Lover of all, wake us to You awaiting wonders. Amen

Nov 20—Matthew 25:1-13, Psalm 132

Lord, waking or sleeping, we trust in You. Preserve our faith until You return.

Amen

Nov 21—John 18:18-40, Psalm 42

Father, You know all. Grant peace to my questioning heart. Amen

Nov 22—Job 38:1-38, Psalm 65

Thank You, Father, for answering my desperate pleas for help. Amen

Nov 23—Jeremiah 38:1-9, Psalm 22:1-24

Christ, You did not scorn the cross but suffered in our place. Have mercy upon our jaded hearts for Your sake. Amen.

Nov 24—Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 106:1-23

Father, thank You for countless gifts, but especially for Jesus, who won eternal life for us. Amen

Nov 25—Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14, Psalm 93

Lord of all, reign forever in and through our lives. In Jesus' name. Amen

Nov 26—Matthew 20:20-28, Psalm 143

God, we are awestruck by Your might and Your humility. May serving Your Word be our greatest joy. Amen

Nov 27—Luke 1:46-55, Psalm 8

Christ, as You have risen from the dead, raise up to new life. Amen

Nov 28—1 John 21:15-19, Psalm 38

Forgive our failures, Lord. Firm up our faith so we may not waver. Amen

Nov 29—Matthew 21:1-17, Psalm 100

Christ, as You entered Jerusalem, enter our hearts, claiming Kingship over them.

Amen

Nov 30—Acts 1:1-11, Psalm 44:1-18

Lord, as You do not depart from us, let us never depart from Your ways. Amen

***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.



# **Announcements and Upcoming Events**

## **Choir Schedule**



### **SCHEDULE:**

November 2nd	7pm
November 9th	7pm
November 16th	7pm
November 23rd	7pm
November 30th	7pm

### **Reminder:**

**Choir practice has changed from Thursday evening to Wednesday evening. All are welcome!**

***DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER, 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](mailto:scustead@atlanticbb.net) or [ccustead@atlanticbb.net](mailto:ccustead@atlanticbb.net)  
 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.

## 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.\*\*\*\***

CHOIR PRACTICE	NOV 2	7PM
SWEETS AND TREATS	NOV 6	10AM
COUNCIL MEETING	NOV 8	6PM
CHOIR PRACTICE	NOV 9	7PM
WELCA MEETING	NOV 12	9AM
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING	NOV 13	12PM
CHOIR PRACTICE	NOV 16	7PM
CHOIR PRACTICE	NOV 23	7PM
THANKSGIVING SERVICE	NOV 24	10AM
CHOIR PRACTICE	NOV 30	7PM

## 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.



*A two-week Advent Sunday School Bible Study will be led by the pastors on Sundays, December 11 and 18, 9:30-10:30 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!*



**Joe Yanke is providing the Sweets and Treats.  
Thank you Joe.**





**PLAN TO ATTEND!!!**

**SUNDAY NOVEMBER 13TH  
FOLLOWING WORSHIP**

All committees are encouraged need to meet soon and submit their yearly report.

Please submit your report to the Administrative Assistant by Friday November 4th. You can email them to [stjamesaltona@verizon.net](mailto:stjamesaltona@verizon.net)

***Church Council Members***

Mark Hoover—President  
Shirley Manbeck—Vice President  
Donna Wilt—Secretary  
Ralph Grove—Treasurer  
Betty Boslet  
Dana Detwiler  
Carolyn Feather  
Donna Foster  
Evelyn Holsinger  
Sylvia Malsatzki  
David Manbeck

**St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church Staff**

*Pastors— Revs. Scott & Carol Custead, Transitional  
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

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

**Janet Kauffman**

\*Carolyn Feather  
\*Evelyn Holsinger  
\*Debra Morgan

Stewardship/Evangelism

**\*Donna Wilt**  
\*Dana Detwiler  
Janet Kauffman

Finance

**\*Mark Hoover**  
\*Betty Boslet  
John Wiederkehr  
\*Donna Wilt  
Ralph Grove

Property

Bob Holsinger  
Earl Walters

\* Denotes Council Member  
Thrivent Rep-?  
A.L.S.M. Rep—?