

Kirchenblatt November 2018

(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 2018



KIRCHENBLATT



Did you know that Thanksgiving is *not* a church holiday, but is rather a *national* holiday? For this reason it stands alone as a unique opportunity in the worship life of the faith communities of this nation! We gather for worship at this time because each year the President of the United States declares a national day of Thanksgiving, asking the citizens of this nation to unite in expressing gratitude for the mercies of a Divine Providence toward our nation. I find that interesting, don't you? A US President calling upon the people to give thanks to a "higher power" is an unusual thing these days!

But this tradition of setting aside a day of thanksgiving remains because it goes deep into our nation's heritage! In 1621, following an abundant harvest in the Plymouth Colony, Governor William Bradford issued a statement calling upon all the Pilgrims to gather at their meeting house to give thanks to God. Their feast followed three hours of prayer and thanksgiving. The annual observance of such a day soon spread to other colonies and states.

In 1789, George Washington issued the first Thanksgiving Proclamation, making it a national holiday for the first time. He wrote, "Whereas, it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favour:...therefore, I do assign Thursday, the twenty-sixth day of November, to be devoted by the people of these states to then expressing gratitude for the mercies of a Divine Providence toward our nation." So it is that our Thanksgiving worship takes on an appropriate patriotic mood.

PASTOR'S LETTER FOR November 2018



KIRCHENBLATT



Three things can be noted about Washington's first Presidential Thanksgiving Proclamation. First, as he writes that it is the duty of all nations to recognize the providence of Almighty God, Washington acknowledges that God *does* bless, provide, and care for the people of all nations, not just ours. As we give thanks as a nation, we ought to remember that God blesses other nations as well as ours, and that God intends for us to share our abundant resources so that others in the world and in our own nation may not go hungry or cold.

Secondly, Washington's Proclamation calls upon the people to ask God to pardon our national transgressions. Our gratitude should be tempered with confession, trusting that God will forgive. Surely the blessings of America are many, but the misuses of our blessings are also present. To celebrate Thanksgiving does not call for an unconditional approval of everything in our national history or everything in our present life as a people. Thanksgiving, rather, provides us an occasion to reflect on and assess all that our nation has and does, all in a spirit of gratitude.

Thirdly, Washington's Proclamation calls upon the people of this nation to unite in giving unto God "sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country". That call has been repeated each year by the President in an annual Thanksgiving Proclamation. So in the rich American tradition of Thanksgiving, we consider the blessings God has given us as a nation and as a people, and we unite our voices and prayers in thanksgiving!

So don't forget to join us at St. James each Sunday for worship at 10:45 am, including November 18th when we will include a bit of Thanksgiving observance in the service. We hope that you all have a very blessed Thanksgiving!

–Pastor Carol Custead

Contribution & Attendance Summary

August 2017

Contributions \$1,857

Average Weekly Attendance: 22

August 2018

Contributions \$1,836.45

Average Weekly Attendance: 18

INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY

August 1, 2018 - August 31, 2018

INCOME

Bank Interest	\$0.00
Contributions	
General	\$1,836.45
Designated	\$0.00
Special	\$0.00
Other Income	\$4,241.26
	<hr/>
	\$6,077.71

EXPENSES

Pastoral Administration	\$2,395.65
Worship & Music	\$496.08
Office	\$1,057.91
Custodial & Property	\$302.81
Uncategorized	\$.458.76
	<hr/>
	\$4,711.21

**November Flower Chart
and Bulletin's**

Altar:

- 4
- 11
- 18
- 25

Bulletins:

- 4
- 11
- 18
- 25

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



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.

Remember In Your Prayers

Our Prayer List:



Tim Surkovich
Joe Yanke
Dolores Foster
Mark Hoover

(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

Presbyterian Village in Holidaysburg:

Charlie Green

Patti Green

Allegheny Lutheran Home:

Janet Kauffman

In their own homes:

Deborah Manbeck

Glenn Dell

Marlene Leonard

John Wiederkehr

From the Office of the Bishop....

Pastor Luther Gotwald passed away October 15th with his family at his side. We ask that you please keep the family in your prayers.

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 knows of someone needing prayers, contact the church office.



WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMERICA NEWS

We hosted a Cider and Sweater Event on October 6, 2018 from 9:30-11:30am

Our guest speaker was Andrea K. Paul , Financial Associate , from Thrivent. She spoke on “Do One Thing Differently”. We invited local churches to our event. We also had a Silent Auction. The monies raised are going to be given to a charity of our choice. Ladies of WELCA served gingerbread and cider. Thanks to everyone that helped at this event. Special thanks to Sylvia Matsatzki for decorating the tables and the fellowship hall.

Next meeting is November 10th at 10:00am.

We will have a Christmas tree in the Narthex starting in November. We will be collecting scarves, hats, and gloves for children. .

The Christmas Party will be December 8th (Saturday) at 12:00 Noon at US HOTEL in Hollidaysburg. Pastors Carol and Scott offered to provide the entertainment. This is opened to the congregation and their friend.



WOMEN of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Help WELCA to help others. Trim the small tree located in the narthex starting in November. Let's fill the tree with hats, gloves and scarves for cold weather! Many children have none and we ask all of you to give to someone who has less than you. Hats, gloves and scarves will be donated to the Toasty Toddler Program with United Way of Blair County.

Christmas Blessings.





*Allegheny Chorale
Christmas Concert*

Tuesday, December 4, 2018

First Presbyterian Church

Tyrone, PA

7 PM

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is a national holiday. Each year the President calls upon the people of this nation to give thanks to God for our nation's blessings. We may enjoy a nice meal, some fellowship, and maybe a football game, but these are not the heart of the holiday. These are just the trimmings. A real Thanksgiving can take place only in our hearts. The only true necessity for Thanksgiving is a prayer of thanks. As Meister Eckart said, "If the only prayer you say in your entire life is 'thank you,' that would suffice."

Prayer before dinner

Gracious Lord, all good gifts come from you. You are the source of life, the richness of the earth, the love of friends and family, the stability of nations and governments. As we celebrate this day, inspire us with your Spirit so that we are filled with thanksgiving. May this time of feasting renew in us a commitment to our call to proclaim your greatest gift – salvation through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Give Thanks to the Lord



"The earth has
yielded its increase;
God, our God,
has blessed us."
-Psalm 67

Psalm 67

May God be merciful to us and bless us, show us the light of his countenance and come to us. Let your ways be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations. Let the nations be glad and sing joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all nations upon earth. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. The earth has brought forth her increase. May God, our own God, give us his blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

Nov 1—Luke 23:38-43, Psalm 67

“Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—That saved a wretch like me! Amen

Nov 2—John 1:1-5, Psalm 65

O Lord, “through Thy sufferings, death and merit I eternal life inherit. Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee”. Amen

Nov 3—Luke 1:26-38, Psalm 8

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Jesus, “our childhood’s pattern, Day by day like us He grew...He feels for all our sadness, And He shares in all our gladness”. Amen

Nov 4—Mark 4:26-32, Psalm 86:8-17

O Father, give us courage so that whoever “trusts” in God’s unchanging love Builds on the rock that naught can move”. Amen

Nov 5—Mark 10:23-31, Psalm 13

“I take content What He has sent; His hand that sends me sadness Will turn my tears to gladness”. Amen

Nov 6—Matthew 2:13-23, Psalm 15

O Lord, please guide my ways to keep Your statutes still! Grant me grace to know and do Your will! Amen

Nov 7—Mark 10:13-16, Psalm 51

“I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus, Trusting only Thee; Trusting Thee for salvation, Great and free”. Amen

Nov 8—John 19:25-27, Psalm 82

O Lord, “blest the parents who give heed Unto their children’s foremost need...May none to them and heav’n be lost! Amen

Nov 9—Luke 11:1-13, Psalm 72

Father, keep us in Your love forever, so that we have good cheer. Amen

Nov 10—Matthew 1:18-25, Psalm 38

“O God, forsake me not!...Lord, lead Your helpless child; Your Holy Spirit send me That I my course may run”. Amen

Nov 11—John 3:1-17, Psalm 49

Heavenly Father, “For this bright day, For this fair land—Gifts of Your hand—Our thanks we pay”. Amen

Nov 12—John 8:1-11, Psalm 55

“What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!” Amen

Nov 13—Luke 21:10-19, Psalm 46

O Lord, though I “walk in danger all the way,” I also “walk with Jesus all the way,”

Amen

Nov 14—Matthew 10:26-32, Psalm 43

“Savior, like a shepherd lead us; Much we need Your tender care”. Amen

Nov 15—Matthew 19:3-9, Psalm 25

“Unless You build it, Father, The house is built in vain;...But nothing breaks the union Of hearts in You made one”. Amen

Nov 16—Matthew 25:31-46, Psalm 74

Lord, “may we, where help is needed, there Give help as unto Thee!” Amen

Nov 17—Matthew 18:10-14, Psalm 62

Gracious God, “Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone, Who did for all the world atone; He is our Redeemer”. Amen

Nov 18—2 Timothy 1:3-7, Psalm 92

Lord, bless the Word that to “Our sons and daughters we shall tell And they again to theirs”—the message of Your mighty deeds of love in Christ. Amen

Nov 19—John 2:18-22, Psalm 139

“Lord Jesus, ... purge away my sin; ... And make me pure within”. Amen

Nov 20—Luke 23:44-49, Psalm 40

Father, “Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee”. Amen

Nov 21—Luke 22:39-46, Psalm 39:8-13

“In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me”. Amen

Nov 22—Matthew 5:38-42, Psalm 81

“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Father, give us grateful hearts that gratefully share. Amen

Nov 23—Luke 10:1-9, Psalm 100

Dearest Jesus, “Let the water and the blood, From Thy riven side which flowed, Be of sin the double cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow’r”. Amen

Nov 24—John 13:12-17, Psalm 94

“My heart, My mind, My strength, My all, To God I yield, on Him I call”. Amen

Nov 25—Luke 20:19-25, Psalm 59

Thank You, Lord, that even if “take they our life, Goods, fame, child, and wife...The Kingdom ours remaineth”. Amen

Nov 26—Matthew 9:1-7, Psalm 61

Jesus, be my “balm in Gilead To make the wounded whole...To heal the sin-sick soul”. Amen

Nov 27—Matthew 5:1-12, Psalm 41

O Lord, thank You that though I am “Chief of sinners,” You have imparted Your “peace that flows from sin forgiv’n”. Amen

Nov 28—John 11:28-44, Psalm 102

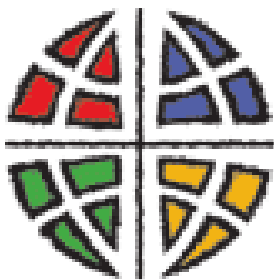
Lord, when “cross and trial grieve me,” remind me that “Christ is near With His cheer; Never will He leave me”. Amen

Nov 29—John 10:10-15, 27-30, Psalm 37:14-40

“Lord, be our light when worldly darkness veils us;...And in the day when hell itself assails us, Grant us Your peace”. Amen

Nov 30—John 5:21-29, Psalm 103

O Lord, when my body is laid in the grave, I wait “that solemn day When God Himself shall bid it rise”. Amen



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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.

The pastors will be out of town on October 28, and Mark Hoover will preside over the service for Reformation Sunday.

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 DECEMBER ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

BULLETIN DEADLINE	OCT 30TH 10:30 AM
CHOIR REHEARSAL	NOV 1ST 7 PM
SWEETS AND TREATS	NOV 4TH 10 AM
BULLETIN DEADLINE	NOV 6TH 10:30 AM
WELCA MEETING	NOV 10TH 10 AM
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING	NOV 11TH 12PM
BULLETIN DEADLINE	NOV 13TH 10:30 AM
COUNCIL MEETING	NOV 13TH 6 PM
KIRCHENBLATT ARTICLE DEADLINE	NOV 15TH 12 PM
CHOIR REHEARSAL	NOV 15TH 7 PM
POTLUCK DINNER	NOV 18TH 12PM
BULLETIN DEADLINE	NOV 20TH 10:30 AM
THANKSGIVING (NO SERVICES)	NOV 22ND
POINSETTIA ORDER DEADLINE	NOV 25TH
BULLETIN DEADLINE	NOV 27TH 10:30 AM
CHOIR REHEARSAL	NOV 29TH 7 PM
DECORATE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS	DEC 1ST 10 AM
SWEETS AND TREATS	DEC 2ND 10 AM
BULLETIN DEADLINE	DEC 4TH 10:30 AM
ALLEGHENY CHORALE CONCERT	
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TYRONE	DEC 4TH 7 PM
CHOIR REHEARSAL	DEC 6TH 7 PM
WELCA CHRISTMAS PARTY	DEC 8TH 12 PM
BULLETIN DEADLINE	DEC 11TH 10:30 AM
COUNCIL MEETING	DEC 11TH 6 PM
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE	DEC 24TH 7:30 PM
CHRISTMAS DAY (NO SERVICES)	DEC 25TH
UNDECORATED THE CHURCH	JAN 5TH 10 AM



The Annual Congregational meeting will be held **November 11th** after the service. There will be nominations for council members and then the election for council. The budget will be discussed and then anything else that the congregation may bring to our attention.

SWEETS AND TREATS

NOVEMBER 4TH

Presented by
Evelyn and Bob Holsinger

Thank You Evelyn and Bob





Christmas Poinsettias

Bless our Sanctuary and your home this Christmas with a beautiful red poinsettia! For each \$7.25 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 25, 2018.** 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

Church Council Members

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

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
Edith Trinks

Christian Education/

Social Ministry

***Evelyn Holsinger**
*Carolyn Feather
*Sylvia Malsatzki
*Donna Wilt
*Shirley Manbeck

Finance

***Mark Hoover**
*Betty Boslet
*Donna Wilt
*Bill Wilt
Ralph Grove

Property

Bob Holsinger
Bill Dambeck
*Evelyn Holsinger
*Shirley Manbeck
*Bill Wilt
Mike Savino

Stewardship/Evangelism

***Donna Wilt**
*Dana Detwiler
*Carolyn Feather

* Denotes Council Member