

Kirchenblatt December 2018

(Parish Newsletter)

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



Join us for Worship Sundays at 10:45 am

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pastors Corner	2-3	Prayer List	5	Daily Readings	10-12
Financials	4	Announcements	6-9	Upcoming Events	13-17
Flower Chart	4			Committee List	18
Birthdays	4				
From the Bishop	5				

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 December 2018



My daughter-in-law is pregnant this holiday season. Not just pregnant, but very pregnant. The baby is looking likely to make its entrance into the world in mid-January. It will be a boy. That will make three children, all boys. My son will be a real life Fred MacMurray. (Ask me and I will explain that reference, if you don't get it.)

I wonder what it would be like to be pregnant during Advent. It seems like it could add a great deal of depth to one's devotional life. I imagine your identification with Mary could be rather intense. The sense of expectation and promise would be heightened.

My children were born in April and November, so I never went through a very pregnant Advent and Christmas with Carol. I wonder if my son is feeling a great deal of identification with St. Joseph. He is in church work, so he probably is just feeling the programmatic work stress of the season.

It is the case that we often miss our chances for the Scriptural stories and messages to come alive in our lives. In our secularized day the spiritual depth of life is well hidden. We will be bombarded with more Santa Baby than O' Holy Night. We have things to do, preparations to be made, and distractions galore available. It is easy for the deep realities to get lost in the tinsel.

PASTOR'S LETTER FOR December 2018



KIRCHENBLATT



Maybe I should pay extra attention to my daughter-in-law this season. She can remind me of what Mary went through, and what it meant for her to serve the Lord. The baby, yet to be born, can remind me of the sacredness of the life God created and gave his Son to redeem. This child to be born can call me to the godly task of service to this son to be given.

The holiday season in our culture is one struggling to find meaning and depth. Like everything in our day it is often turned into a source of conflict and division. What will help remind you that the season is quietly pregnant with God's presence and promises? What package under your mental Christmas tree has the potential to hold a glimpse of Emmanuel.

Pastor Scott Custead

Contribution & Attendance Summary

September 2017

Contributions \$1,996.00

Average Weekly Attendance: 24

September 2018

Contributions \$1,766

Average Weekly Attendance: 22

INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY

September 1, 2018 - September 30, 2018

INCOME

Bank Interest	\$0.00
Contributions	
General	\$1,516.00
Designated	\$0.00
Special	\$250.00
Other Income	\$4,020.60
	<hr/>
	\$5,786.60

EXPENSES

Pastoral Administration	\$1,736.42
Worship & Music	\$496.08
Office	\$1,132.89
Custodial & Property	\$425.19
Uncategorized	\$.458.87
	<hr/>
	\$4,249.45

**December Flower Chart
and Bulletin's**

Altar:

- 2
 - 9
 - 16
 - 23
 - 30
- Bulletins:**
- 2
 - 9
 - 16
 - 23
 - 30

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

December Birthdays

Marian Holsinger	12/29
Charles McMasters	12/11
Erikka Wilt	12/11

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
 Lisa Slates
 Peggy Thatcher



(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:

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....

No Report

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.



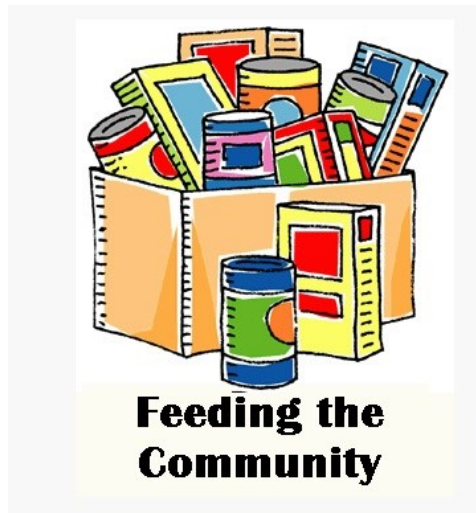
*Allegheny Chorale
Christmas Concert*

Tuesday, December 4, 2018

First Presbyterian Church

Tyrone, PA

7 PM



In preparation for the Food Bank distribution at St. Luke's Episcopal, we are gathering food. There are boxes in the narthex in which to place your donations. Here is what is especially needed (of course, other items are welcome).

Instant Mashed Potatoes	Bisquick	Cake Mix
Baked Beans	Peanut Butter	Tuna
Jelly	Condiments	Fruit Juice
Canned Vegetables		
Dry (powdered) milk	Ramen Noodles (beef or chicken)	



WOMEN
of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



WELCA CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 8th

US Hotel Hollidaysburg

12:00 NOON

Pastors Carol and Scott will provide the entertainment . Members and guests are welcome. Please contact Donna Wilt at 942-0379 if you plan on attending. Fellowship, good food and entertainment for all.

PLEASE PLAN ON ATTENDING.



Stainless Steel Mini Refrigerator Silent Auction

Council is taking bids on the GE Stainless Steel 4.3 CU. FT. mini refrigerator in the church office. If interested place your sealed bid with your name in the collection plate. Bids will be taken until December 16th.



Christmas Worship Schedule
December 23 4th Sunday of Advent, 10:45 a.m.
Christmas Eve: 7:30 p.m.
(no Christmas Day service)

Dec 1—Titus 1:1-5, Psalm 4

Help me daily remember, Lord, that “My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness”. Amen

Dec 2—Luke 21:25-33, Psalm 119:81-88

Jesus, my Savior, let me find comfort, strength, and peace in Your Word, which will never pass away. Amen

Dec 3—1 Thessalonians 1:1-7, Psalm 71:1-9

O Lord, cheer us with Your mercy and encourage us with Your grace, through Christ, our Lord. Amen

Dec 4—1 Corinthians 5:6-8, Psalm 105:39-45

On earth, we join with angels, archangels, and all the host of heaven, almighty God, letting joy and hope radiate from our faces and voices. Receive our praise for the salvation the sinless Lamb has won. Amen

Dec 5—Ephesians 1:3-10, Psalm 78:1-8,32-35

Thank You, loving Lord, that I have the hope of seeing You and serving You forever in heaven. Thank You for redeeming me and giving me the gift of Your Holy Spirit. Amen

Dec 6—Romans 3:21-26, Psalm 39:1-7

Lord God, thank You for St. Nicholas, presents, and Christmas parties. But thank You, especially, for Your Son; help me reflect His light to others. Amen

Dec 7—Luke 2:27-38, Psalm 117

“Glory to the Father sing, Glory to the Son, our king, Glory to the Spirit be Now and through eternity”. Amen

Dec 8—Ezra 10:1-2, Psalm 130

Lord Jesus, preserve Your Church. Even when society seeks to “chain” our Gospel witness, give us hope and unbounded zeal. Amen

Dec 9—Mark 4:35-41, Hebrews 6:13-20, Psalm 110

Savior of our mortal race, “in ev’ry high and stormy gale” of this tempestuous life, You are my anchor to whom in safety I cling. Amen

Dec 10—Jeremiah 29:4-14, Psalm 48

Father, may I seek the welfare of my city and radiate hope in Christ. Amen

Dec 11—Jude 1:1-14, Psalm 45

Holy Spirit, by Your Word, touch my heart and the hearts of my neighbors, revealing hope in Christ—a fear-dispelling hope. Amen

Dec 12—2 Corinthians 9:6-10, Matthew 13:1-9, Psalm 65:9-13

“We thank You, Lord God, heavenly Father, for all Your benefits, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever”. Amen

Dec 13—Galatians 1:11-24, Psalm 31:1-5, 11-24

Heavenly Father, give to all those being persecuted for their faith the strength to endure. Amen

Dec 14—Acts 4:5-12, Psalm 84:8-12

Gracious Lord God, grant us to live as Your people, bearing witness to You and radiating living hope in the world's sole Redeemer. Amen

Dec 15—2 Timothy 1:8-14; 4:6-8, Psalm 147

You, Lord Jesus, are my mediator at the heavenly throne. Keep my eyes of faith focused on You. Amen

Dec 16—Philippians 4:4-7, Psalm 16

“Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love!” Amen

Dec 17—Daniel 1, Psalm 63

O Joy of the Angels, remind me when I feel helpless and hopeless that You are faithful. You are our refuge and strength. Amen

Dec 18—Mark 14:1-11, Psalm 12

“O Father, God of love, Now hear my supplication; O Savior, Son of God, Accept my adoration; O Holy Spirit, be My ever faithful guide That I may serve You here And there with You abide”. Amen

Dec 19—Genesis 3:14-24, Romans 4:13-25, Psalm 34:18-22

Merciful Lord, guide me by Your Spirit. Help me see Your grace in my life. Amen

Dec 20—Mark 12:41-44, Psalm 33:18-22

We thank You, dear Advent King, for devoted spouses and parents. Amen

Dec 21—John 11:11-17;20;24-31, Psalm 22:22-31

Lord, sustain my faith, that I might live in firm hope in You. Help me focus this holy season on You and Your grace, not on me. In short, “I believe; help my unbelief!” Amen

Dec 22—Romans 15:1-13, Psalm 119:49-56

Your Word assures me, so thank You, mighty God, that You've gifted me with hope now and forever, in Jesus, Your beloved Son. Amen

Dec 23—Luke 1:39-56, Job 1:6-8, Psalm 91

Almighty God, as in Job's day, so at the time of Christ's birth, and also today, the devil roams the earth. Grant to each of us strength to resist Satan and cling to our Savior. Amen

Dec 24—Luke 2:1-14, Psalm 149

We praise You, Lord Jesus, begotten of the Father's love from all eternity, and born to be whom You truly are—the Prince of Peace. Amen

Dec 25—Luke 2:15-20, Psalm 93

O Dayspring from on high, splendor of light everlasting, come and kindle in us great faith, hope, love, joy, and zeal. Amen

Dec 26—John 1:1-14, Acts 7:51-60, Psalm 119:137-144

On this day after Christmas, remind us, O Lord, that “Heav’n is my fatherland, Heav’n is my home”. Amen

Dec 27—1 Peter 1:3-25, Psalm 131

Lord Jesus, light of the world, brighten my countenance with living hope and joy through Your resurrection. Amen

Dec 28—Matthew 2:1-18, Psalm 54

O God, the Father of our human race, grant Your forgiveness, life in Christ, and hope for us and generations after us. Amen

Dec 29—Galatians 4:4-7, Psalm 42

“Jesus, priceless treasure, Fount of purest pleasure, Truest friend to me”, may my heart ever long for and cry out to You. Amen

Dec 30—Hebrews 3:12-14; 14-16, Psalm 113

Spirit of Jesus, thank You for helping me be an agent of hope in Christ to that special someone. Amen

Dec 31—Luke 12:35-40; 24:44-49, Psalm 90

Lord God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—keep me steadfast in the faith, joyful in a lively hope, and warm in the Son-shine of Your abiding love. 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.

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 JANUARY ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS,
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15.***

Announcements and Upcoming Events

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
ADVENT SERIES BETHANY LUTHERAN	DEC 5TH 6:30 PM
CHOIR REHEARSAL	DEC 6TH 7 PM
WELCA CHRISTMAS PARTY	DEC 8TH 12 PM
COUNCIL MEETING	DEC 9TH 12 PM
BULLETIN DEADLINE	DEC 11TH 10:30 AM
ADVENT SERIES ST JAMES	DEC 12TH 12 PM
ADVENT SERIES BETHANY LUTHERAN	DEC 12TH 6:30 PM
ADVENT SERIES BETHANY LUTHERAN	DEC 19TH 6:30 PM
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE	DEC 24TH 7:30 PM
CHRISTMAS DAY (NO SERVICES)	DEC 25TH
UNDECORATE THE CHURCH	JAN 5TH 10 AM



**SWEETS AND TREATS
DECEMBER 2ND
Presented by
Joe Yanke**



**Join us for an Advent Series
where we share with one
another about special
Christmas Carols**

Location: Bethany Lutheran Church
* Except where noted

Times: Noon (Lunch Service) or 6:30PM

Dates:

Dec 5th: Silent Night

Dec 12th: Away in a Manger

**** Noon Service will be
at St James Lutheran Church****

Dec 19th: Go Tell it on the Mountain



The Allegheny Synod
40,000 Can
Challenge
Ending on Super Bowl Sunday
Now – February 3

Your donation of non-perishable food items to the 40,000 “Can” Challenge will benefit local food banks and service agencies who serve the people in your community.

To participate, record how many non-perishable items are collected and call the office at 814-942-1042

Results will be publicized through the Allegheny Synod Facebook page, the Lutheran Letter, and e-mails to congregations.



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.



Church Council Members

Mark Hoover—President
Donna Wilt—Vice President
Evelyn Holsinger—Secretary
Ralph Grove—Treasurer
Betty Boslet
Carolyn Feather
Donna Foster
Sylvia Malsatzki
Bill Wilt
Sharon Lightner
Kim Vandevander
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
*Sharon Lightner

Worship & Music

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

By-Laws

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

Christian Education/

Social Ministry

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

Finance

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

Property

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

Stewardship/Evangelism

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

* Denotes Council Member