



Kirchenblatt March 2019

(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 March 2019



KIRCHENBLATT



At a monthly conference pastors' gathering a few years ago this reading by Romano Guardini was shared:

"On the edge of the woods grows a larkspur. Its glorious blue blossom rising on its bending stalk from among the dark green curious-shaped leaves fill the air with color. A passerby picks the flower, loses interest in it and throws it into the fire, and in a short moment all that is left of that splendid show is a thin streak of grey ash. What fire does in an instant, time is always doing to everything that lives. The delicate fern, the rooted oak, butterflies, darting swallows, nimble squirrels, heavy oxen--all of them, equally, sooner or later, by accident, disease, hunger, cold--all this flourishing life turns to a handful of dry dust which every breeze scatters this way and that. All this brilliant color, all this sensitive, breathing life falls into pale, feeble, dead earth, and less than earth, into ashes. It is the same with ourselves.

' Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.' Ashes signify humanity's overthrow by time. Our own swift passage--ours and not someone else's—ours, mine. When at the beginning of Lent

PASTOR'S LETTER FOR March 2019



Palm Sunday and inscribes with it on my forehead the sign of the cross, it is to remind me of my death. Everything turns to ashes--everything whatsoever. This house I live in, these clothes I am wearing, my household stuff, my money, my fields, meadows, woods, the dog that follows me, the clock in the hall, this hand I am writing with, these eyes that read what I write, all the rest of my body, people I have loved, people I have disliked or been afraid of, whatever was great in my eyes upon earth, whatever small and contemptible--all without exception will fall back into dust." *(by Romano Guardini)*

Lent has a way of stripping away all pretenses. We can get so full of ourselves, believing we have gotten our act together, perhaps having rationalized reasons for excusing our sinful behaviors. And then comes Lent. It is good for us. It puts us in our places once again. **'Remember that you are dust...'** -a gentle reminder that all of life is given by God's gracious hand, and that only by His gracious gift are we given eternal life through [Jesus](#) Christ our Savior. Good reason to, only by His help, live this life the way its Giver intended.

--Pastor Carol Custead

Contribution & Attendance Summary

December 2017

Contributions \$2,995.00
 Average Weekly Attendance: 29

December 2018

Contributions \$2,955.25
 Average Weekly Attendance: 27



INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY

December 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018

INCOME

Bank Interest	\$0.00
Contributions	
General	\$2,817.75
Designated	\$137.50
Special	\$20.00
Other Income	\$4,000.00
	\$6,975.25

EXPENSES

Pastoral Administration	\$2,324.31
Worship & Music	\$815.08
Office	\$1,583.74
Custodial & Property	\$2,945.39
Uncategorized	\$1,515.77
	\$9,184.29

Remember In Your Prayers

Our Prayer List:

Tim Surkovich
 Joe Yanke
 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:

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....

ASH WEDNESDAY 2019

One of the more powerful moments of the church year has always been for me, and I would suspect for any pastor, the moment after the imposition of ashes when you look out at the congregation and see everyone marked with the black ash crosses. That moment is a stark visual reminder that everyone you love and care for, no matter their age, health, or ability will die. It is a visual representation of the phrase, “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.”

As you gather this Ash Wednesday I invite you to look around and see how you are surrounded by people who have been marked for death. Sit in the hard reality that your life, my life, the lives of all we see, and the lives of all people do end. Ash Wednesday can be sobering as it reminds us of the truth of our existence.

However, Ash Wednesday also reminds us that death does not have the last word over us. These crosses not only to remind us of our mortality but remind us that Jesus destroyed the power of death. In his death on the cross our Lord Jesus went into death itself—but death could not hold him. Death could not contain the one who is the God who brought all life into being.

It was in our baptism that we were first marked with the cross of Christ. The ash cross is a reminder of the promise of one who has claimed us and will never let us go. Nothing, not even death, can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ash Wednesday is a reminder of the hope we have in Jesus. Whether we live or whether we die we belong to Jesus Christ. Jesus is our hope, our way, our truth, our life, and our salvation. We are called to follow him. We are called to follow the only one who can save us.

May our Lord Jesus be with you. May you know Christ’s presence now and always. May you know the great gift of life you have received in Jesus Christ. May you be led by the Holy Spirit to turn back to our Savior and follow his way of self-giving love and mercy in this world.

May Christ bless you now and always.

+Bishop Michael Rhyne

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

◆If anyone knows of someone needing prayers, contact the church office.



**IMPORTANT
ANNOUNCEMENT**

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

Council voted to now hold services year round in the sanctuary.



POTLUCK DINNER

**Our next Potluck Dinner
will be March 10th.**

**Come and enjoy a great
meal with great people!**

Easter Flowers

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

This Donation is made:

IHO: _____

IMO: _____

Choice of Flowers:

- Red Tulips 5/6 Bulb (\$9)
- Lilies Single Stem (\$10)
- 8" Daffodils (\$12)

Amount of Contribution: \$ _____ Envelope Number: _____

Please Check One:

- Yes, I do want to take the flower(s) home with me.
- No, I do not want to take the flower(s) home with me. I would like them to be given to a shut-in or friend of St. James.

Please use the My Offering envelope in your pew to place your order and payment. Check the Flower Fund box on the envelope and place in the offering plate.

Orders must be received by March 24, 2019

Mar 1—John 1:1-17, Psalm 33:1-11

“Yet as the Law must be fulfilled Or we must die despairing, Christ came and has God’s anger stilled, Our human nature sharing. He has for us for the Law obeyed and thus the Father’s vengeance stayed which over us impended”. Amen

Mar 2—John 1:29-42, Psalm 34:1-8

“Once in the blest baptismal waters I put on Christ and made Him mine; now numbered with God’s sons and daughters, I share His peace and love divine”. Amen

Mar 3—2 Peter 1:3-21, Psalm 27:7-14

“we pray Thee, bring us by Thy grace to see Thy glory face to face”. Amen

Mar 4—John 2:1-11, Psalm 128

Thank You, Lord Jesus, for clothing my shame with Your righteousness. Amen

Mar 5—John 3:1-11, Psalm 1

Father, we often believe that we can only be happy if people are happy with us. Remind us that we have Your approval as we are born anew to become Your precious children in water and Spirit. In Jesus’ name. Amen

Mar 6—Matthew 4:1-11, Psalm 91

Lord Jesus, thank You for fulfilling the obligations of our sinful dealings. Thank You that Your life free from sinful dealings is given us as our own. Amen

Mar 7—John 3:11-21, Psalm 78:40-55

Lord Jesus, uplifted on the cross, from the grave, and into the heavens, assure us that You are faithful to lift us up from every struggle. Amen

Mar 8—John 4:1-24, Psalm 42

My soul thirsts for You, dear God, the true and living God. Amen

Mar 9—John 4:27-38, Psalm 63:1-7

“Bring to this scared altar The gifts His goodness gave, the golden sheaves of harvest, the souls Christ died to save”. Amen

Mar 10—John 5:1-16, Psalm 139:23-24

Father, the harder we work to prove ourselves, the more crippled we realize we are. Raise us up to know Your healing and love in Christ. Amen

Mar 11—John 6:1-14, Psalm 145:13-21

“With heav’nly bread He makes the hungry whole, gives living waters to the thirsty soul”. Amen

Mar 12—John 6:25-40, Psalm 78:18-35

“yea, heav’n itself were void and bare if Thou, Lord, wert not near me”. Amen

Mar 13—John 6:53-59, Psalm 22:23-31

“O bread of heav’n, my soul’s delight, for full and free remission I come with prayer before Your sight in sorrow and contrition. Your righteousness, Lord, cover me that I receive You worthily”. Amen

Mar 14—John 7:37-43, Psalm 105:39-45

“With one accord, O God, we pray: Grant us Your Holy Spirit. Help us in our infirmity through Jesus’ blood and merit”. Amen

Mar 15—John 8:1-11, Psalm 94:1-19

Thank You, Lord Jesus, that You were dragged out and bore our shame so that when we appear before You, we will not be put to shame. Amen

Mar 16—John 9:13-41, Psalm 119:17-24

Lord Jesus, place Your healing Word and Sacraments on our blind eyes so that we can ever see You. Amen

Mar 17—Matthew 5:38-48, Psalm 51:10-13

Lord Jesus, save, bless, and raise up our enemies to become new creations of Your grace, just as You have done with us. Amen

Mar 18—John 10:10-21, Psalm 95

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

Mar 19—Matthew 2:13-23, Psalm 127

“Though all the world forsake His Word, I and my house will serve the Lord!”. Amen

Mar 20—John 11:38-50, Psalm 116:1-9

“Sing with all the saints in glory, Sing the resurrection song! Death and sorrow earth’s dark story, to the former days belong”. Amen

Mar 21—John 12:1-8, 30-42, Psalm 103

“Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a tribute far too small; love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all!” Amen

Mar 22—John 13:1-11, Psalm 51:1-8

Lord Jesus, wash us and we will be clean. Amen

Mar 23—John 14:1-9, Psalm 93

“You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know, that truth to keep, that life to win whose joys eternal flow”. Amen

Mar 24—John 15:1-11, Psalm 80:7-19

“Graft us into You, O Savior; prune our hearts so we remain fruitful branches in Your vineyard till eternal life we gain”. Amen

Mar 25—Luke 1:26-38, Psalm 45

“Humbly now, I bow before You; love incarnate, I adore You; worthily let me receive You and, so favored, never leave You”. Amen

Mar 26—John 16:5-15, Psalm 104:24-30

“To You, the Counselor, we cry, to You, the gift of God Most High; the fount of life, the fire of love, the soul’s anointing from above”. Amen

Mar 27—John 19:25-27, Psalm 68:1-6

Jesus, as You took our place on the cross, may we take Your place in the world to serve all You would declare to be Your family. Amen

Mar 28—John 19:28-42, Psalm 16

“Firmly to our soul’s salvation Witnesses Your Spirit, Lord in Your Sacraments and Word”. Amen

Mar 29—John 20:10-18, Psalm 147

Risen Lord, may we live as those whose names You have spoken with joy and tenderness from Your lips. Amen

Mar 30—John 20:19-29, Psalm 96

Our Lord and God, Your perfect love drives out our fear. We praise You. Amen

Mar 31—John 21:1-11, Psalm 96

Lord, our labors will have nothing to show without You. Thank You for allowing us to share the joy of Your eternal labors through Your eternal Word for all to be part of Your eternal family. Amen



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

During our pastors' absence (January 31 - February 26) pastoral emergencies are being covered by Pastor Drew McCaffery of Bethany Lutheran Church. He can be reached at Bethany's office (944-7560) or on his cell phone (814-538-9036).

IN THE CASE OF A PASTORAL EMERGENCY, please contact Pastors 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 APRIL ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS,
FRIDAY, MARCH 15.***

Announcements and Upcoming Events

BULLETIN ARTICLE DEADLINE	FEB 19TH 12 PM
CHOIR PRACTICE	FEB 21ST 7 PM
BULLETIN ARTICLE DEADLINE	FEB 26TH 12 PM
CHOIR PRACTICE	FEB 28TH 7 PM
SWEETS AND TREATS	MAR 3 10 AM
COUNCIL MEETING	MAR 3 12 PM
BULLETIN ARTICLE DEADLINE	MAR 5TH 12 PM
CHOIR PRACTICE	MAR 7TH 7 PM
WELCA MEETING	MAR 9TH 9 AM
POTLUCK DINNER	MAR 10TH 12 PM
BULLETIN ARTICLE DEADLINE	MAR 12TH 12 PM
CHOIR PRACTICE	MAR 14TH 7 PM
BULLETIN ARTICLE DEADLINE	MAR 19TH 12 PM
LENTEN LUNCH SERIES @ ST JAMES	MAR 20TH 12 PM
CHOIR PRACTICE	MAR 21ST 7 PM
EASTER FLOWER ORDER DEADLINE	MAR 24TH 11PM
BULLETIN ARTICLE DEADLINE	MAR 26TH 12 PM
LENTEN LUNCH SERIES @ BETHANY	MAR 27TH 12 PM
CHOIR PRACTICE	MAR 28TH 7 PM
BULLETIN ARTICLE DEADLINE	APR 2ND 12 PM
LENTEN LUNCH SERIES @ BETHANY	APR 3RD 12 PM
CHOIR PRACTICE	APR 4TH 7 PM
SWEETS AND TREATS	APR 7TH 10 AM
BULLETIN ARTICLE DEADLINE	APR 9TH 12 PM
LENTEN LUNCH SERIES @ ST JAMES	APR 10TH 12 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 Mix	Bisquick	Cake
Baked Beans	Peanut Butter	Tuna
Jelly	Condiments	Fruit Juice
Canned Vegetables		
Dry (powdered) milk	Ramen Noodles (beef or chicken)	



SWEETS AND TREATS

March 3, 2019

Sponsored by Bill and Donna Wilt

* We are always looking for volunteers to sponsor Sweets and Treats. If you're interested there is a sign up sheet in the Sunday School Room. Your support is appreciated!

Church Council Members

Mark Hoover—President
Donna Wilt—Vice President
Evelyn Holsinger—Secretary
Ralph Grove—Treasurer
Betty Boslet
Dana Detwiler
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—Tori Gragar*

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

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

By-Laws

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

Christian Education/
Social Ministry

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

Finance

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

Property

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

Stewardship/Evangelism

***Donna Wilt**
*Dana Detwiler
*Carolyn Feather
*Kim Vandevander

* Denotes Council Member