



St. James Evangelical
Lutheran Church

April 21, 2019

Easter Sunday
COMMUNION

Worship every Sunday
10:45 AM

He Is Risen!

Welcome

*We welcome all visitors who come to worship with us today.
We are delighted that you have come to share in the prayer
and praise of our Lord and invite you to return and add your
voice to ours in holy celebration. If you have a special need or
prayer write it on the prayer card in the pew rack and place it in
the offering plate. Before you leave us today, we ask that you
please sign our guest book.*

*We celebrate the Lord's supper and invite all baptized
Christians to share in this Holy Feast.*

**Pastor: REVS SCOTT AND CAROL CUSTEAD
Church Organist/Choir Director: PATRICIA McCONNELL
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: TIM SURKOVICH**

**ALL LITURGY AND MUSIC RIGHTS RESERVED
REPRINTED UNDER AUGSBURG FORTRESS LITURGIES LICENSE #31114
REPRINTED UNDER ONELICENSE.NET #A-723225**

St. James Mission Statement: To make disciples of Jesus Christ through Word and Sacrament by the Holy Spirit.

Announcements

Prelude: Halleluia Chorus G.F. Handel

(We take this time to silently prepare our hearts and minds for worship)

We Gather

- The Lighting of the Paschal Candle and Easter Proclamation:

P: Christ, yesterday and today, the beginning and the ending. To Christ belongs all time and all the ages; to Christ belongs glory and dominion now and forever.

C: Amen.

(In silence the candle is lit.)

P: May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

P: The light of Christ

C: Thanks be to God.

P: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*GATHERING SONG: CHRIST IS RISEN! ALLELUIA! ELW 382

NEXT PAGE

Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!

1 Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!
 2 Christ is ris - en! All the sad - ness of our Lent - en fast is o'er;
 3 Christ is ris - en! All the sor - row that last eve - ning round him lay
 4 Christ is ris - en! Hence - forth nev - er death or hell shall us en - thrall.

Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!
 through the o - pen gates of glad - ness he re - turns to life once more;
 now has found a glo - rious mor - row in the ris - ing of to - day;
 We are Christ's, in him for - ev - er we have tri - umphed o - ver all.

Grate - ful - ly our hearts a - dore him as his light once more ap - pears;
 death and hell be - fore him bend - ing see him rise, the vic - tor now,
 See the grave its first - fruits giv - ing, spring - ing up from ho - ly ground;
 All the doubt - ing and de - jec - tion of our trem - bling hearts have ceased;

bow - ing down in joy be - fore him, ris - ing up from griefs and tears.
 an - gels on his steps at - tend - ing, glo - ry round his wound - ed brow.
 Christ was dead, but now is liv - ing; he was lost, but he is found.
 hail the day of res - ur - rec - tion! Let us rise and keep the feast.

Refrain

Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!

Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

Text: John S. B. Monseil, 1811-1875, alt.
 Music: MORGENLIED, Frederick C. Maker, 1844-1927

***GREETING:**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

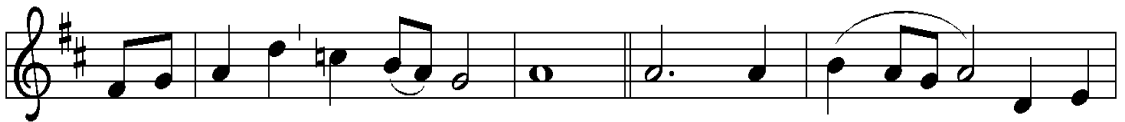


glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Let us pray.

ALL: O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

We Listen to the Word

First Reading:

Acts 10:34-43

A reading from Acts.

³⁴Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ — he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM:

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good; God's mercy endures forever.

²**Let Israel now declare, "God's mercy endures forever."**

¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.

¹⁵**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:
"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"**

¹⁶The right hand of the LORD is exalted! The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

¹⁷**I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.**

¹⁸The LORD indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹**Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks
to the LORD.**

²⁰"This is the gate of the LORD; here the righteous may enter."

²¹**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation.**

²²The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

²³**By the LORD has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.**

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Solo:

Christians, To the Paschal Victim

Bob Hench

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 15:19-26

A reading from Corinthians.

¹⁹If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. ²¹For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; ²²for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

*GOSPEL:

Luke 24:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.



A musical staff in G-clef and 4/4 time. The melody consists of the following notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), F5 (quarter), G5 (quarter), F5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter). A red 'C' symbol is located below the first measure.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

¹On the first day of the week, at early dawn, [the women] came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. ⁶Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” ⁸Then they remembered his words, ⁹and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹²But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

The Gospel of the Lord



A musical staff in G-clef and 4/4 time. The melody consists of the following notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), F5 (quarter), G5 (quarter), F5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter). A red 'C' symbol is located below the first measure.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

We Respond to the Word

*Hymn of the Day:

The Day of Resurrection!

ELW 361

The Day of Resurrection!

1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,
2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil that we may see a - right
3 Now let the heav'n's be joy - ful, let earth its song be - gin,
4 All praise to God the Fa - ther, all praise to Christ the Son,

the pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the pass - o - ver of God.
the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light,
the round world keep high tri - umph and all that is there - in.
all praise to God the Spir - it, e - ter - nal Three in One!

From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,
and lis - t'ning to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,
Let all things, seen and un - seen, their notes of glad - ness blend;
Let all the ran - somed num - ber fall down be - fore the throne,

our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry,
his own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the glad re - frain.
for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end!
and hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry as - cribe to God a - lone!

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Music: ELLACOMBE, German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833

***Creed**

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

(Petitions are offered for the Church, the world, the nations, and all who are in need.)

....Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

(after final petition)

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Sharing of the Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

We Offer Our Gifts

Offertory:

Rejoice the Lord Is King

James Manfield

*Offertory Hymn

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

NEXT PAGE

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Offering Song



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - sing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

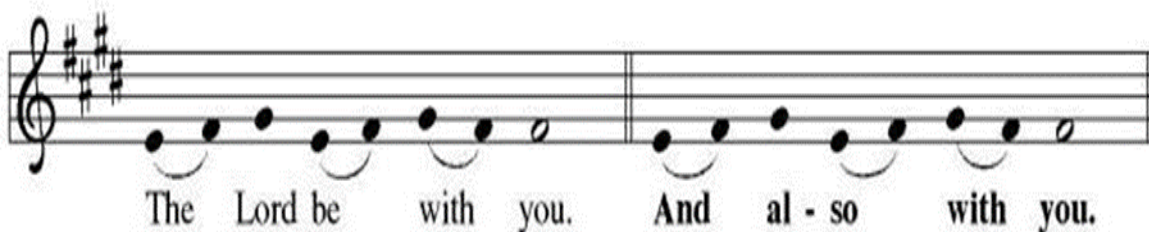
***Offering Prayer:**

P: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

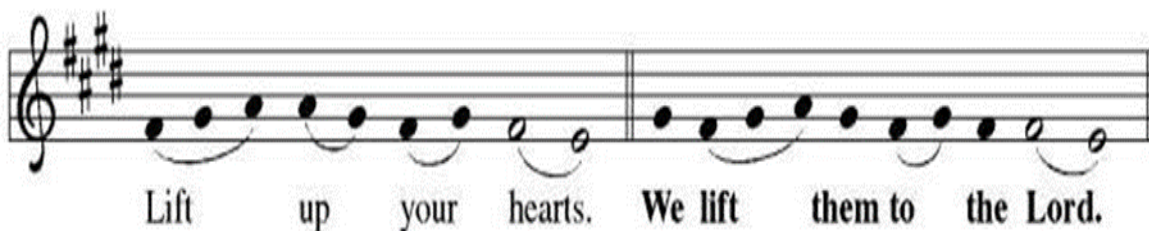
C: Amen.

We Share the Feast

***Holy Communion**



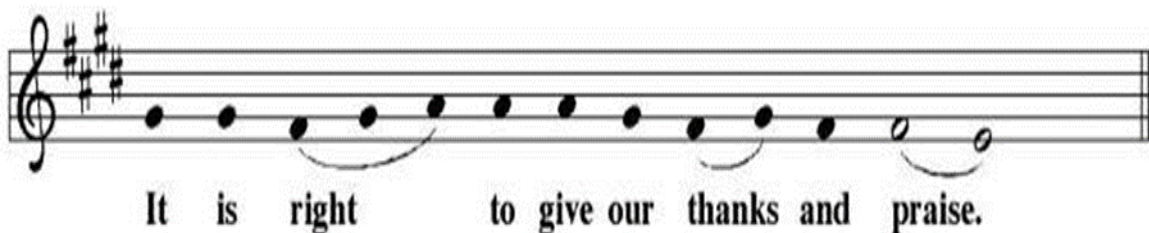
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



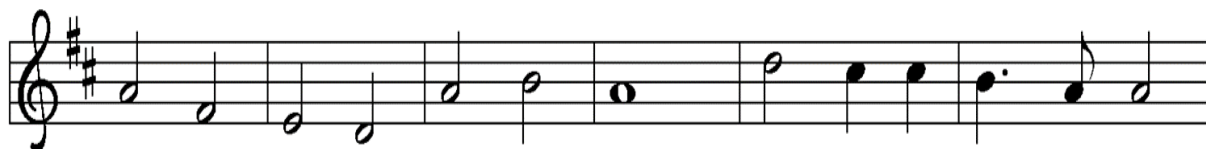
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Thanksgiving at the Table

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us.

Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With [name/s and] your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

Amen.

*The Lord's Prayer

Lord remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

*Invitation to Communion

P: Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as you once revealed yourself to your disciples.

Communion Distribution

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

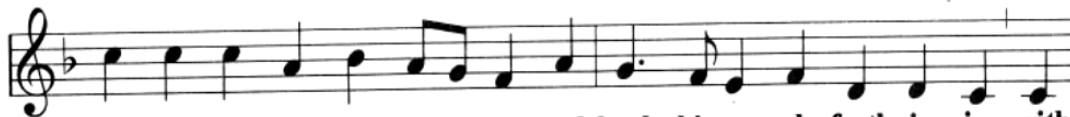
*Song after Communion:



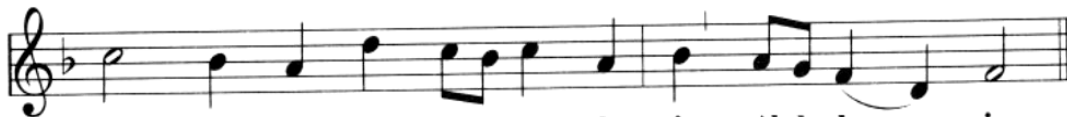
☐ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud - ly bear his name.



He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***Prayer after Communion**

P: Living God, you have greeted us in our brokenness and nourished us with the body of Christ, broken for us. Risen to new life with you, send us now to bear your healing love into the wounded world, in the name of our risen Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

We Are Sent

***Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done; now is the vic - tor's
 2 The pow'rs of death have done their worst; Je - sus their le - gions
 3 The three sad days have quick - ly sped, Christ ris - es glo - rious
 4 Christ closed the yawn - ing gates of hell; the bars from heav'n's high
 5 Lord, by the stripes which wound-ed you, from death's sting free your

tri - umph won! Now be the song of praise be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!
 has dis - persed. Let shouts of ho - ly joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
 from the dead. All glo - ry to our ris - en head! Al - le - lu - ia!
 por - tals fell. Let hymns of praise his tri - umph tell. Al - le - lu - ia!
 ser - vants too, that we may live and sing to you. Al - le - lu - ia!

After the final stanza

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: *Symphonia Sirenum*, Köln, 1695; tr. Francis Pott, 1832–1909
 Music: VICTORY, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, 1525–1594; arr. William H. Monk, 1823–1889

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia.**

*Postlude: Welcome Happy Morning

John Sciveyner

Announcements

IN THE CASE OF A PASTORAL EMERGENCY,

**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**

The church office email is stjamesaltoona@gmail.com The church's
website is www.stjamesaltoona.org
On Facebook—St. James Lutheran Church—Altoona, PA

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.******



Mark Your Calendars

EVENTS



- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| BULLETIN DEADLINE | APR 23RD 12 PM |
| SEQUANOTA ANNUAL BENEFIT DINNER | APR 26TH 5 PM |
| ALLEGHENY CHORALE | APR 28TH 3 PM |
| BULLETIN DEADLINE | APR 30TH 12 PM |
| CHOIR REHEARSAL | MAY 2ND 7 PM |
| SWEETS AND TREATS | MAY 5TH 10 AM |
| BULLETIN DEADLINE | MAY 7TH 12 PM |
| COUNCIL MEETING | MAY 7TH 6PM |
| CHOIR REHEARSAL | MAY 9TH 7 PM |
| WELCA MEETING | MAY 11TH 10 AM |
| BULLETIN DEADLINE | MAY 14TH 12 PM |
| KIRCHENBLATT ARTICLE DEADLINE | MAY 15TH 12PM |
| CHOIR REHEARSAL | MAY 16TH 7PM |
| WELCA SUNDAY | MAY 19TH |
| BULLETIN DEADLINE | MAY 21ST 12 PM |
| CHOIR REHEARSAL | MAY 23RD 7PM |
| BULLETIN DEADLINE | MAY 28TH 12 PM |
| CHOIR REHEARSAL | MAY 30TH 7 PM |
| COUNCIL MEETING | JUN 11TH 7 PM |
| CHURCH PICNIC | JUN 23RD 11 AM |

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 Hollidaysburg:

Patti Green

Allegheny Lutheran Home:

Janet Kauffman

In their own homes:

Deborah Manbeck

Glenn Dell

Marlene Leonard

John Wiederkehr



SWEETS AND TREATS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH.

**OUR NEXT SWEETS AND
TREATS WILL BE MAY 5TH
SPONSORED BY
PEGGY THATCHER**

* 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!



WELCA SUNDAY

May 19, 2019

10:45 AM

Members will be participating in the Sunday Service.
Pastor Carol will be providing music with her guitar.
Invite your friends!

A Potluck Dinner will also be served that day at 12 PM

Please come and join us for the service and a meal!
Everyone is invited!



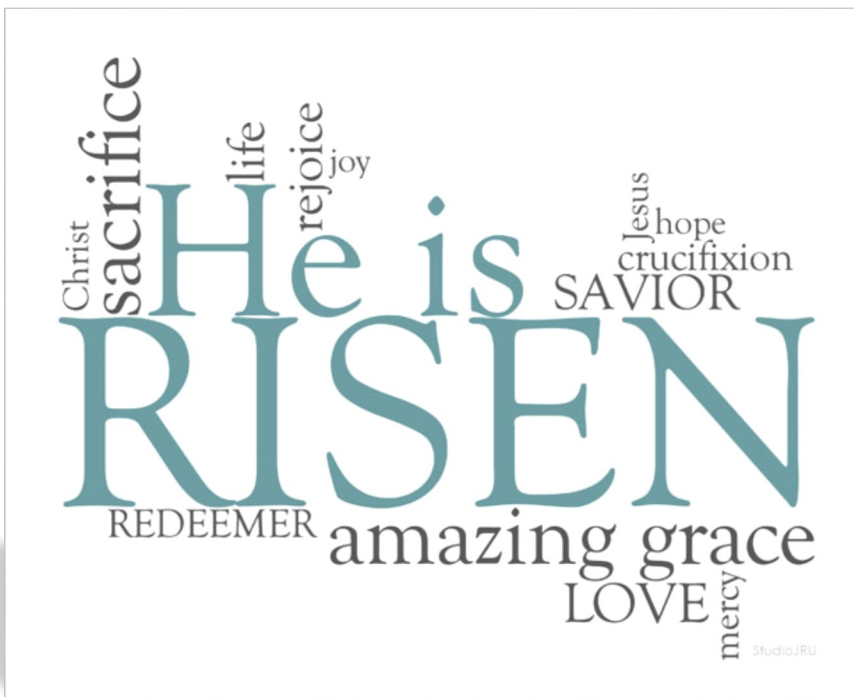
POTLUCK DINNER
ПОТЛУК ДИИИЕР



WOMEN
of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

WELCA NEWS

We are going to decorate the bulletins boards in the Fellowship Hall. We plan on decorating them for the seasons. Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. If you have any ideas or if you want to help, please let us know.



CHURCH PICNIC

Planning for the church picnic has begun. You can use the sign up sheet on the stand in the narthex or on the foyer bulletin board. Or use the sheet on the next page.

Church Picnic will be held June 23, 2019 at Highland Park, Pavilion #1





June 23, 2019
Highland Park, Pavilion #1

11:00 AM Communion Worship Service

12:00 PM Meal

Rokkandy

Pat McConnell's band will play following the meal.

SIGN UP SHEET

**** Paper Plates, and Utensils will be provided****
****Iced Tea, Lemon Aid, and Water will be provided****
****Hamburgers, Hot Dogs and Rolls will be provided****

Name: _____

Plan to attend # _____ Plan to bring # _____

Name: _____

Plan to attend # _____ Plan to bring # _____

Name: _____

Plan to attend # _____ Plan to bring # _____

Name: _____

Plan to attend # _____ Plan to bring # _____

Name: _____

Plan to attend # _____ Plan to bring # _____

Name: _____

Plan to attend # _____ Plan to bring # _____



Allegheny Chorale
featuring
Allegro String Quartet

**Sing
and
Rejoice**

Sunday, April 28, 2019 at 3PM
St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church, Altoona

Tuesday, April 30, 2019 at 7PM
First Presbyterian Church, Tyrone

Deborah Estright, Director

Free to the Public

The congregation are asked to please donate cookies and treats for the reception following the concert. Thank You.

Easter 2019

Sisters and Brothers,

May God's grace and peace be with you as we celebrate the great victory of God in Jesus Christ our Lord. On Easter Sunday, we celebrate that our Lord Jesus Christ has defeated the powers of sin, death, and the devil by opening the way for you and me to be brought into his eternal life.

We celebrate that in Jesus we receive the great gift of salvation, a gift that is poured into us through the grace and mercy of almighty God. We proclaim today that, "Christ is Risen, He is Risen Indeed!" and we rejoice that because he is risen we too shall rise. Thanks be to God!

There is something interesting about our Easter gospel reading, Luke 24:1–12. You might have noticed on the day we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus doesn't actually show up in this reading or chapter. We might think this strange. The whole story of the gospel has been building up to this great victory of the resurrection, but when the resurrection occurs in Luke, we don't see Jesus because this account is about the mission of Jesus Christ and how he is calling us into his life.

When we read on, we find Jesus in chapter 25 where he appears to the two disciples on the Road to Emmaus. The risen Lord is not hanging around the tomb waiting to be discovered. The risen Jesus has work to do and he is immediately out on the road looking for his people and bringing them the good news of his resurrection.



I always find this a very poignant moment in the gospel—the first time we see the resurrected Jesus in Luke we see him on the road seeking out his people. When he walks with the disciples on the road to Emmaus, he is teaching them, comforting them, and eventually he will feed them.

Had we been betrayed, abandoned, mocked, beaten, and wrongfully killed, our first reaction upon resurrection would most likely not be mercy, grace, and forgiveness but rather anger and perhaps even seeking vengeance. Our Lord Jesus reaches out in love to those who betrayed him and brings salvation to the world that tried to destroy him. This is the true love and mercy of our Lord and our God.

That same Jesus is the one who is with us now. We follow the Jesus who comes after us and seeks us out. Our Lord is continually calling and welcoming us to him. This Jesus also sent the Holy Spirit to do that continual work of pursuing us and bringing us back to our life with God and with our Lord Jesus.

This Easter we thank God for the victory of Christ Jesus—the one who is always calling, inviting, and looking for us. Jesus loves you so much. He doesn't give up on you or me--ever. He always welcomes us into his life and invites us to walk with him.

May you know the presence of Jesus Christ who is with you now and always.

God bless you and Happy Easter
Bishop Michael L. Rhyno

He is Risen





St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

1407 Eighth Avenue

Altoona, PA 16602

814-944-6835

stjamesaltoona@gmail.com

www.stjamesaltoona.org