

Kirchenblatt September 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 September 2019



KIRCHENBLATT



I once noticed a poster in a church hallway. It said, ***“Few things in life can be relied on like faith.”*** I personally *know* this to be true, especially when hardship and trials come our way. But how do we pass Christian faith on to others in such a way that they will make it their own? We can teach them *about* faith, but that does not necessarily place faith into their hearts! Passing faith on to others is ultimately the work of the Holy Spirit. Faith is caught, not taught. But we must do our part as servants of the Spirit, and we *must do our best! And attendance at weekly worship is a really good start!*

It would be difficult to over-estimate the importance of Sunday worship attendance as a routine in a our lives, and all the more so today as we experience countless pressures to engage in behaviors that can be harmful—even destructive—to our lives! Being in the presence of the fellowship of believers is the way to help us “catch” and “re-catch” the faith.

It would also be difficult to over-estimate the importance of frequent Bible reading along with worship attendance as a routine in everyone’s life! The culture that surrounds us today is very different than the one that most of us grew up in.

PASTOR'S LETTER FOR September 2019



Participation in the faith-based activities of our church is actually now considered a *counter-cultural* activity!

We all need the “re-fueling” for our faith that worship and frequent Bible reading opportunities bring. We always did, but all the more so today! And we never stop growing in our faith! As life brings inevitable changes, there will be challenges to our faith. It will then either disappear or it will grow. Being in the presence of the fellowship of believers is the way to help us keep “catching” the faith and growing together as disciples of Jesus Christ

So, as the summer comes to a close, and we prepare to get back into the routine of the rest of the year, don't neglect to make frequent Bible reading and worship a part of the regular routine. Because, the saying is so true...“*Few things in life can be relied on like faith.*” Actually, I believe we could confidently say that **nothing** in life can be relied on like faith...faith in our unchanging, loving and gracious God who created life in the first place! Hope to see you in church!

--*Pastor Carol*

Contribution & Attendance Summary

June 2018

Contributions \$2,142

Average Weekly Attendance: 20

June 2019

Contributions \$2,624

Average Weekly Attendance: 22

INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY

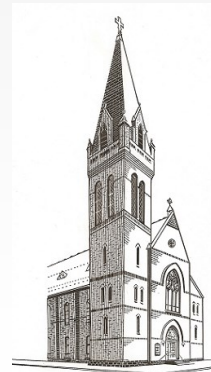
June 1, 2019 - June 30, 2019

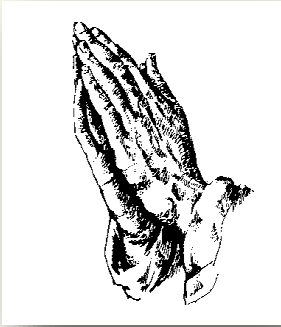
INCOME

Bank Interest	\$0.03
Contributions	
General	\$2,240.00
Designated	\$24.00
Special	\$0.00
Other Income	\$7,000.00
	<hr/>
	\$9,264.03

EXPENSES

Pastoral Administration	\$2,016.58
Worship & Music	\$511.86
Office	\$1,141.88
Custodial & Property	\$2,490.71
Uncategorized	\$.450.22
	<hr/>
	\$6,611.25





From the Office of the Bishop....

See Bishop's Letter Page 6

Remember In Your Prayers

Our Prayer List:

Tim Surkovich

Joe Yanke

(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

John Wiederkehr



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.

Dear Friends,

On Sunday, November 17, 2019 the Allegheny Synod will be holding a worship service to kick off our year of celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Women's ordination in the Lutheran Church in America. The service will be at 4pm and hosted at Evangelical Lutheran in Duncansville. All are welcome and clergy will be invited to vest and process.

I wanted to share with you that we are honored to have **Pastor Elizabeth Platz** joining us to preside at the service. Pastor Platz was the first woman ordained a Lutheran Pastor in the United States. She was ordained by the Delaware/Maryland Synod and spent much of her career as campus minister at the University of Maryland. There will be a reception after the service and Pastor Platz has been gracious enough to join us for a question and answer time about her ministry.

Additionally, we will welcome **Bishop Barbara Collins** of the Upper Susquehanna Synod as our guest preacher for the service. We are thankful that Bishop Collins can join us for this day of celebration.

I hope you will mark your calendar and plan on joining us for this special service as we begin our year of celebration. As we proceed through the year, our 50th Anniversary Committee will be sharing information on events and services we will be hosting throughout the year. I also ask you to please help us by sharing this announcement with your congregations.

Thank you and God bless you,

Bishop Michael



**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL***

Connecting faith & finances for good.®

PRAY WITH HANDS UNFOLDED

Church leader John Wesley once said, "Prayer is where the action is."

When Christians see a need in the world, we pray. With hands folded in prayer we lift up to God people in distant lands as well as the needs we see in our local communities. And with hands unfolded, we dedicate ourselves to serving neighbors in need: providing meals for the hungry, tutoring the young, befriending the lonely. We give witness to our faith through our acts of service and the love we extend to "the least of these" (Matthew 25:40).

During a colder than normal winter, members of Holy Trinity Church in Reidsville, North Carolina, prayed with hands unfolded to address the needs in their neighborhood. As part of a Thrivent Action Team, church members put their prayer into action by assembling comfort soup mixes into quart bags and distributed the meals to families through their local Red Cross affiliate.



**When we see a need, let us first pray.
And then, let us pray with hands unfolded.**

Do you know of a specific need in your community? Learn more about Thrivent Action Teams at [Thrivent.com/actionteam](https://www.thrivent.com/actionteam).

Provided by:



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Sep 1—Ephesians 1:1-14, Psalm 48

You, Lord, are so good and gracious to us. In Jesus, You have adopted us and given us a share in Your kingdom and household. Amen

Sep 2—Ephesians 2:1-9, Psalm 5

Lord God, in mercy You have loved us and brought us from death to life. Sustain that life in us by Your life-giving Word. Amen

Sep 3—Ephesians 3:1-21, Psalm 42

We praise You, Lord, for revealing Your gracious salvation to us in Your Son. Give us mouths to proclaim Your mysterious goodness and rejoice in it! Amen

Sep 4—Ephesians 4:1-24, Psalm 89:1-18

We often forget those around us, Lord. Forgive us. Teach us to see that we are united in You: one Lord, one faith, one Baptism...and so to praise Your glorious grace. Amen

Sep 5—Ephesians 4:25-5:14, Psalm 97

Lord Jesus, You are the light in this sin-darkened world. Remember me when I'm being tempted, and rescue me from the devil's darkness. Amen

Sep 6—Ephesians 5:15-33, Psalm 45

Lord, help us to see that You have ordered our lives for our good. Give us strength to live according to Your will even when our flesh and the devil tempt us to do what is right in our own eyes. Amen

Sep 7—Ephesians 6:10-20, Psalm 104

Strong and mighty Lord Jesus, support us in this troubled world. Be our strength and might, that we may stand against the schemes of the devil. Amen

Sep 8—Philippians 1:1-20, Psalm 57

You have set us free, Lord Jesus. While happiness may come and go in this world, give us hearts that rejoice at the freedom we have in You. Amen

Sep 9—Philippians 1:21-2:11, Psalm 136

Father in heaven, we would rather be with You in glory! Give us servant hearts—yes, the very mind of Christ—that we may love and serve those around us who need our help. Amen

Sep 10—Philippians 2:12-30, Psalm 123

You have completed our salvation on the cross of Calvary, Lord Jesus. Work out the salvation in us and through us for the sake of others, that they may also hear the Good News and rejoice. Amen

Sep 11—Philippians 3, Psalm 15

Gracious Lord Jesus, we thank You that You have not left us to save ourselves. Teach us to trust in Your victory. Amen

Sep 12—Philippians 4, Psalm 36

Lord Jesus, You have given us what the world cannot give: Your eternal kingdom and an inheritance that can never spoil or fade. May Your promises fill us with contentment and peace. Amen

Sep 13—Colossians 1:1-23, Psalm 89:19-29

Lord Jesus Christ, You have delivered me from a life of sin and death. All thanks and praise to You! Give me grace to live each day as a member of Your kingdom. Amen

Sep 14—Colossians 1:24-2:7, Psalm 56

Lord Jesus, by Your cross, You have worked the forgiveness of our sins. All thanks and praise belong to You for our salvation! Amen

Sep 15—Colossians 2:8-23, Psalm 68:18-26

Jesus, Savior of sinners, You once were dead for our sin but now are gloriously raised up to never-ending life. Raise us up with You each day, that we may live holy lives in Your kingdom. Amen

Sep 16—Colossians 3, Psalm 148

Lord of Life, in You we have new life. Raise us up today from our sin to live in love for those around us. Amen

Sep 17—Colossians 4, Psalm 146

God, Your Word is not bound. Forgive my lack of faith! Open my eyes to the opportunities You have given me to share the good news of Jesus. Amen

Sep 18—1 Timothy 1, Psalm 65

Father, I stand before You blameless and purified. How amazing is Your goodness to me! Amen

Sep 19—1 Timothy 2, Psalm 143

Father, You desire my salvation; may I never forget this precious truth, and may I ever praise You for it! Hear me on account of Jesus, my Savior. Amen

Sep 20—1 Timothy 3, Psalm 111

Gracious Father, You have built Your Church on the good news of salvation in Your Son. May this Good News support me all my days! Amen

Sep 21—1 Timothy 4:1-16, Psalm 122

O Holy Spirit, You clothe me in the Word of God. Fill my ears with God's Word and my mouth with prayers and praise. Amen

Sep 22—1 Timothy 5:1-16, Psalm 110

Give us eyes to see the needs of all those around us, dearest Jesus, and shape our hearts after Your own. Amen

Sep 23—1 Timothy 5:17-6:2, Psalm 62

As You have washed me, Jesus, in Baptism's waters, keep me from taking part in the sins of others. Amen

Sep 24—1 Timothy 6:3-21, Psalm 13

Lord, teach me how to shun and flee what harms my salvation. Be the refuge of my soul! Amen

Sep 25—Mark 1:4-11, Psalm 96

Jesus, thank You for considering Yourself nothing to share Your Father's kingdom with us! Amen

Sep 26—Matthew 4:1-11, Psalm 116

Jesus, You stayed in the wilderness and You stayed on the cross. Stay with me when the devil comes to tempt me. Amen

Sep 27—Matthew 4:12-25, Psalm 25

O Lord, thank You for casting the bright beams of Your light into our lives. Amen

Sep 28—Matthew 5:1-20, Psalm 78:1-11

Thank You, Lord Jesus, for giving me Your righteousness and opening to me the kingdom of heaven. Amen

Sep 29—Matthew 5:21-48, Psalm 150

Create in me, Lord Jesus, a new heart that I may not repay evil with evil, but love even as You have loved me. Amen

Sep 30—Matthew 6:1-15, Psalm 119:57-64

Lord, clothe me in Your righteousness, that I may live as Your child in Your Fatherly goodness. 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 OCTOBER ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS,
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15.***

Announcements and Upcoming Events

BULLETIN DEADLINE	AUG 27TH 12 PM
SWEETS AND TREATS	SEP 1ST 10 AM
BULLETIN DEADLINE	SEP 3RD 12 PM
WELCA MEETING	SEP 7TH 10 AM *
* NOTE THIS IS A DATE CHANGE	
BULLETIN DEADLINE	SEP 10TH 12 PM
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING	SEP 10TH 6 PM
KIRCHENBLATT ARTICLE DEADLINE	SEP 15TH 12 PM
BULLETIN DEADLINE	SEP 17TH 12 PM
POTLUCK DINNER	SEP 22ND 12 PM
BULLETIN DEADLINE	SEP 24TH 12 PM
RENEW, RELAX, REFRESH	SEP 28TH 9-4
ALLEGHENY SYNODICAL ORGANIZATIONAL EVENT	
BULLETIN DEADLINE	OCT 1ST 12 PM
SWEETS AND TREATS	OCT 6TH 10 AM





SWEETS AND TREATS

**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF
EACH MONTH.**

**OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS WILL
BE
SEPTEMBER 1
SPONSORED BY
BILL AND JUDY DAMBECK**

* 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!

SAVE THE DATE

SEPTEMBER 28, 2019

THE ALTOONA GRAND HOTEL

9am to 4pm

"RENEW, RELAX, REFRESH"

Allegheny Synodical Women's Organization are inviting you to spend a Saturday to unwind from stresses of life.

THERE WILL BE PHYSICAL, SPIRITUAL AND CREATIVE HANDS ON EXPERIENCES THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

More specific information and a registration form will be forthcoming within the next few weeks.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

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