

# Kirchenblatt October 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](mailto:scustead@atlanticbb.net) or [ccustead@atlanticbb.net](mailto: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 October 2019



KIRCHENBLATT



Our recent Overseas Adventure Travel (O.A.T.) trip on the Baltic Sea was a bit different than our previous trips with this group. It was a shared trip with Grand Circle and we spent most of it on a very small cruise ship (88 passengers with 66 crew members!) for one thing. We were divided into 4 small touring groups and each had its own program leader. So, while our program leader was a guy from Sweden, we also had opportunities to do optional activities with the other three...a man from Polish, a man from Estonia, and a Russian woman. This trip was much more educational than adventurous. While we were at sea there were talks about the next country and city we would be visiting. We had ports of call in 7 different countries: Denmark, Sweden, Poland, Latvia, Estonia, Russia, and Finland.

By far, the most enlightening thing we learned about was all the suffering of the people during the Soviet Era in Poland, Latvia, Estonia and Russia! I could speak of the numbers of people "arrested" and taken to Siberia, and of the horrible living conditions and labor that the people were forced into. And I could speak of the Solidarity Movement in Poland and the Baltic Way and Singing Revolution in Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania that eventually brought the fall of the Soviets.

But the one thing I want to focus on here was something we learned about during our two days in St. Petersburg, Russia. One evening we were allowed to take a walk in the residential neighborhood with Natasha, the Russian program leader. The plan was to simply find people on the street and stop to chat with them and learn about life today in Russia. By the way, they love Americans...every one we spoke with said that. We came upon a neighborhood Russian Orthodox Church having an evening worship service to celebrate the Feast of St. Matthias! Natasha went in and asked an usher if a dozen Americans could come in with her and worship with them for a while, and they were happy to have us come in and join them! Russian Orthodox Churches have no pews.

## PASTOR'S LETTER FOR October 2019



Their priests conduct the service which lasts about 3 hours. The worshippers come and go mostly staying for about an hour, standing the whole time. We stayed for about 20 minutes and saw many worshippers of all generations!

One older gentleman followed us out and asked Natasha (who translated) to speak with us. He was a retired architect who had volunteered to help restore that church, and many others throughout Russia, after the Soviet era. He told us that when the Soviets came into power they attempted to destroy the Russian Orthodox Church. All the priests were either executed or taken to Siberia and forced into hard labor there. The church buildings, with all of their beautiful icon paintings and symbols, were whitewashed and turned into such things as storage warehouses. Worship was outlawed.

So how did the church survive those 70+ years? The people continued to worship in the privacy of their homes (most in small apartments that the Soviets forced them to live in). They did not dare to speak about this outside of their homes! After the fall of the Soviets all the churches were restored, mostly to their previous design! Today, the Russian Orthodox Church is growing with all generations attending! Then this man explained the symbol of the Russian Orthodox cross. The words "save and protect" are written in Russian letters on the back side of the crossbeam. For God did save and protect the Church!

This thought occurs to me as I have returned home. If God did that, will God not save and protect each of us in this life and the next! And will God not "save and protect" the legacy and witness of St. James Lutheran Church, Altoona, even if the congregation itself cannot continue forever? Yes, we have every reason to trust God in all of this! God knows what He is doing in each congregation of His entire Holy Church on earth. It's something to think about!

*--Pastor Carol*

**Contribution & Attendance Summary**

**July 2018**

Contributions \$1,767.75  
 Average Weekly Attendance: 18

**July 2019**

Contributions \$1,830.00  
 Average Weekly Attendance: 18

**INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY**

**July 1, 2019 - July 31, 2019**

**INCOME**

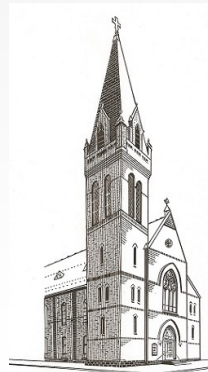
Bank Interest	\$0.00
Contributions	
General	\$1,830.00
Designated	\$0.00
Special	\$0.00
Other Income	\$4,246.67
	<hr/>
	\$6,076.67

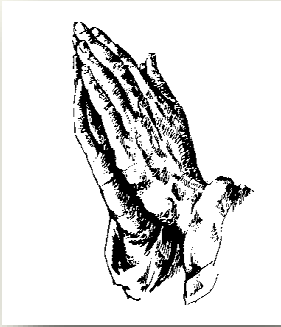
**EXPENSES**

Pastoral Administration	\$2,170.58
Worship & Music	\$511.86
Office	\$1,118.14
Custodial & Property	\$785.97
Uncategorized	\$.528.76
	<hr/>
	\$5,115.31

**October Birthdays**

Justin Eger	10/11
Valerie Feather	10/20
Paulette Frederick	10/12
Robert Green	10/8
Dana Mayo	10/13
Debra Morgan	10/24
David Parsons III	10/31
Michael Savino	10/26
Gabrielle Tyler	10/29





*From the Office of the Bishop....*

See Bishop's Letters on  
Pages 6 & 7

## *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](mailto: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 50<sup>th</sup> 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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*





**Allegheny Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

701 Quail Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602 • 814-942-1042 • 814-941-9259 fax • office@alleghenysynod.com  
 Bishop Michael L. Rhyne

July 27, 2019

Dearest Friends,

May God's grace and peace be with you. I am writing to share with you that after much prayer and discernment I have decided not to pursue a second term as Bishop of the Allegheny Synod. This was not an easy decision for me to make. I dearly love you, the people of our Synod, and the colleagues with whom I serve in the Synod and in the Office of the Bishop.

I understand this information may be surprising, but I feel strongly the Holy Spirit has guided this time of discernment. While serving in this call, I have come to realize how much I have missed in the life of my family. After our Lord Jesus, my wife and our daughters are the most important people in my life. It is important to me to be present and engaged in their lives, especially in these upcoming formative years for our younger daughters.

You also may wonder about the Synod staff. The Synod Council will be working to determine the best way to care for the staff through the time of transition. I am deeply thankful for Pastor Paula Schmitt and Michelle Bossler as we have served together as a team these last five years. This call would not be possible without their hard work and dedication to the ministry we share. Additionally, you are aware that we have called Pastor Joshua Rinas to serve in our Synod. Pastor Joshua and I discussed in depth my discernment and decision before he accepted the call. Because there was the possibility of a transition in 2020, the Synod Council previously decided Pastor Joshua's position would be a term call through August of 2021. Pastor Joshua will be with the office through the time of transition and will discern with the new Bishop his call after that.

The Council also will be appointing a transition team who will work with the process of preparing for and guiding the election at the Assembly. The transition team will be sending updates and inviting you to participate in the process throughout this next year. I encourage you to support the process and to invite the congregations we serve to engage with the transition team.

I will continue to serve in this call until it's conclusion in August of 2020. We will be working deliberately to keep moving forward the leadership initiative we have begun as well as lifting up the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ordination of Women in the ELCA. There is more work to do and we will do it together as God's people in the Allegheny Synod.

Finally, thank you. I thank God for you. I thank God for all the ways you have supported, loved, and cared for me and my family in this call. I am profoundly thankful for you and for the ministry we share in the Allegheny Synod. I continue to pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance for our Allegheny Synod.

Please share this decision with your parish as you discern most fitting.

In Christ,

*+Bishop Michael L. Rhyne*

+Bishop Michael L. Rhyne



- Upcoming Meetings
  - October 12th. 9 AM
  - November 9th 9 AM
  
- Upcoming Events
  - Christmas Party
    - December 14th, Time & Venue TBD







At their September 7th Meeting members of WELCA decorated the bulletin board for the Harvest Season. They will be decorating it again in December for the Holiday Season.



Oct 1—Exodus 24:3-11, Psalm 27

Heavenly Father, thank You for fulfilling Your covenant of a Savior in the perfect life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. In His name. Amen

Oct 2—John 2:1-11, Psalm 121

Heavenly Father, sustain my faith to turn to Jesus in all things. In Jesus' name. Amen

Oct 3—1 Chronicles 28, Psalm 37:3-24

Dear Jesus, thank You for Your love and for not leaving me alone or forsaking me. Amen

Oct 4—Micah 6:6-8, Psalm 1

Heavenly Father, help bear witness to the grace we receive from You and show mercy to our neighbors. In Jesus' name. Amen

Oct 5—Jeremiah 29:1-14, Psalm 37:23-34

Father, we thank You for Your perfect plans and for Your plan of salvation through Jesus, our Savior. Amen

Oct 6—John 16:16-33, Psalm 31:1-5

Jesus, thank You for conquering the trials and tribulations of this world, and for Your suffering, death, and resurrection. Amen

Oct 7—2 Timothy 4:1-8, Psalm 17:9

Jesus, thank You for the victory You won for us on the cross. Amen

Oct 8—Revelation 21, Psalm 84

Jesus, thank You for preparing a place for us in heaven and the joys that await us there. Amen

Oct 9—Lamentations 3:19-40, Psalm 62

Lord, thank You for Your faithfulness. Grant me strength to keep my hope in You. Amen

Oct 10—Deuteronomy 31:1-8, Psalm 10

Jesus, thank You for never hiding from me and for finding me. May I always seek You. Amen

Oct 11—Isaiah 12, Psalm 41

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your constant protection. Please take away my fears and help me put my trust in You. In Jesus' name. Amen

Oct 12—Joshua 1, Psalm 17

Heavenly Father, thank You for the victory that is found in Jesus Christ, my Savior. Amen

Oct 13—Isaiah 43:1-25, Psalm 38

Jesus, thank You for Your daily protection from the fires of life. Amen

Oct 14—Philippians 4:1-9, Psalm 23

Father, thank You for Your divine protection in my life. Amen

Oct 15—Exodus 14, Psalm 6

Jesus, thank You for the empty tomb and for being my Rock in times of trouble.

Amen

Oct 16—Mark 7:14-37, Psalm 30

Lord, please help me to zealously proclaim Your Good News of salvation to everyone I meet. Amen

Oct 17—Proverbs 3:1-12, Psalm 25:1-13

Dear Jesus, thank You for the work of the Holy Spirit in my life. Amen

Oct 18—Philippians 4:10-20, Psalm 9:1-11

Jesus, please continue to be my strength as I face mountains in my life. Amen

Oct 19—Proverbs 19, Psalm 66

Dear Jesus, thank You for keeping me safe in the storms and for guiding me home. Amen

Oct 20—1 Corinthians 13:4-8, Psalm 36:5-12

Dear Jesus, thank You for demonstrating what real love is. Strengthen us to love You and others. Amen

Oct 21—Isaiah 41:1-20, Psalm 49:5-15

Heavenly Father, thank You for always being with me and giving me strength.

Amen

Oct 22—Isaiah 40:12-31, Psalm 70

Lord—please grant me the strength and patience to wait on You. Amen

Oct 23—Malachi 3:6-15, Psalm 90

Father, thank You for Your daily blessings. Help me to be a faithful steward of them. Amen

Oct 24—1 Samuel 17:21-51, Psalm 28

Lord, thank You for Your favor, and for fighting my battles for me. Amen

Oct 25—Luke 24:1-35, Psalm 22:1-11

Jesus, thank You for the cross and the empty tomb, which secure my eternal salvation through faith in You. Amen

Oct 26—Acts 20:17-38, Psalm 18:1-6

Jesus, increase my faith that I may be bold and dare to share the Gospel truth that salvation is through You alone. Amen

Oct 27—Romans 6:1-14, Psalm 56

Dear Jesus, thank You for saving me from death. Keep my eyes focused on eternity with You. Amen

Oct 28—James 1:2-4, Psalm 55

Father, keep my focus on You during my trials, and grant me a steadfast faith. Amen

Oct 29—Luke 9:18-27, Psalm 104:1-23

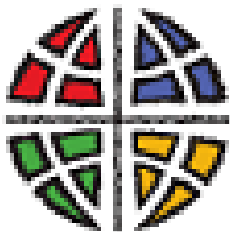
Dear Jesus, grant me the strength to daily take up my cross and follow You. Thank You for Your cross and the salvation it provides. Amen

Oct 30—Exodus 3, Psalm 8

Father, in midst of worldly pressures, remind me daily that I am Yours. Amen

Oct 31—Ephesians 2:1-10, Psalm 46

Jesus—thank You for dying on the cross, for paying the price for my sin, for grace and mercy, and for faith to believe. 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](mailto:scustead@atlanticbb.net) or [ccustead@atlanticbb.net](mailto:ccustead@atlanticbb.net)  
The church office email is [stjamesaltoona@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesaltoona@gmail.com) The church's website is [www.stjamesaltoona.org](http://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 NOVEMBER ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT  
IS, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15.***

# Announcements and Upcoming Events

RENEW, RELAX, REFRESH	SEP 28TH 9-4
ALLEGHENY SYNODICAL ORGANIZATIONAL EVENT	
BULLETIN DEADLINE	OCT 1ST 12 PM
SWEETS AND TREATS	OCT 6TH 10 AM
BULLETIN DEADLINE	OCT 8TH 10:30 AM
CHOIR PRACTICE	OCT 10TH 7 PM
WELCA MEETING	OCT 12TH 10 AM
BULLETIN DEADLINE	OCT 15TH 10:30AM
KIRCHENBLATT ARTICLE DEADLINE	OCT 15TH 12 PM
COUNCIL MEETING	OCT 15TH 6 PM
CHOIR PRACTICE	OCT 17TH 7 PM
OCTOBERFEST	OCT 20TH
BULLETIN DEADLINE	OCT 22ND 10:30AM
CHOIR PRACTICE	OCT 24TH 7 PM
BULLETIN DEADLINE	OCT 29TH 10:30AM
CHOIR PRACTICE	OCT 31ST 7 PM



# ***SWEETS AND TREATS***

## **THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH.**

**OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS WILL BE  
OCTOBER 6  
SPONSORED BY: Shirley Manbeck**

\* 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!





*October 20, 2019*

**Dinner will be served following the Worship Service.**

**Dinner to include Sauerkraut, Pork, Mashed Potatoes, Kneadles (German Bread Dumpling) with Gravy, Hot German Potato Salad, Hot Dogs & Rolls, applesauce and drinks.**

**We are asking members to bring a side dish, vegetable or dessert.**







**R**eformation  
+  
Sunday

**October 27, 2019**

***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