



Kirchenblatt December 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
December 2019**

As we approach Christmas this year, one may wonder what “peace on earth” means any more. Will we ever have world peace? Will the Prince of Peace ever fully reign? War is not at all what it used to be. How do we fight terrorists? There seems to be so much hatred and violence in the world. We wonder if wars in many places will ever end. We worry about school shootings. The culture around us seems to be deteriorating. There seems to be very little politeness anymore. This is even true in the political world where accomplishing anything bi-partisan seems to be out of the question. What is the world coming to?

I remember a Christmas anthem that was sung in one of the choirs I sang in over the past years. It was particularly meaningful: *“Tears are falling, hearts are breaking, how we need to hear from God. You’ve been promised, we’ve been waiting; welcome, Holy Child, welcome, Holy Child. Hope that you don’t mind our manger, how I wish we would have known.*

PASTOR'S LETTER FOR
December 2019



But long awaited holy Stranger, make yourself at home, please make yourself at home. Bring your peace into our violence, bid our hungry souls be filled. Word now breaking heaven's silence, welcome to our world."

As we celebrate the birth of the "Prince of Peace" we can still cling to the hope of our faith—that God is healing the brokenness through his Son, and that in God's time all will be brought into the reign of Peace. So we celebrate, hope and pray this Christmas. Hope to see you in church!

-Pastor Carol Custead

Contribution & Attendance Summary

September 2018

Contributions \$1,766.00
 Average Weekly Attendance: 22

September 2019

Contributions \$2,050.31
 Average Weekly Attendance: 22

INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY

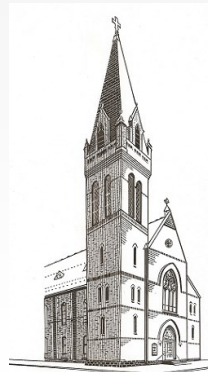
September 1, 2019 - September 30, 2019

INCOME

Bank Interest	\$0.03
Contributions	
General	\$2,245.00
Designated	. \$0.00
Special	\$20.31
Other Income	\$4,019.85
	\$6,285.19

EXPENSES

Pastoral Administration	\$2,016.58
Worship & Music	\$11.86
Office	\$1,023.73
Custodial & Property	\$1,178.62
Uncategorized	\$.148.80
	\$5,713.91





From the Office of the Bishop....

Remember In Your Prayers

Our Prayer List:

Tim Surkovich

Joe Yanke

Sylvia Malsatzki

(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

Advent

*A Season of Hope
& Expectation*

A Midweek Advent Opportunity by Bethany Lutheran Church

Join us at a 12 noon Lunch Service or 6:30 pm Service as we join with the Shepherds in the field, the company of Angels, and Mary and Joseph as we take part in their story which becomes our story. Below you will find the times and locations of our respective services.

*Trinity Lutheran's Address: 408 N. 6th Street, Altoona PA 16601

Date	12 noon Service	6:30 pm Service
Dec 4 th	Bethany Lutheran	Bethany Lutheran
Dec 11 th	Trinity Lutheran	Bethany Lutheran
Dec 18 th	Bethany Lutheran	Bethany Lutheran



WELCA'S CHRISTMAS PROJECT

STARTING NOVEMBER 15th THROUGH DECEMBER 15th

We will have a wrapped CHRISTMAS BOX IN THE NARTHEX on November 15th and we will be collecting the following items:

women's perfume/or sprays, men's aftershave, adult coloring books and colored pencils. They will be given to R.K. Agarwal M.D. and Family Teen Center and Shelter at 1701 -6th Avenue, Altoona. The gifts DO NOT need to be wrapped. The shelter will wrap the gifts. On December 20th they will have a Christmas Party and they will do a gift exchange at that time.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROJECT.



WELCAS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

"SOCKS FOR SOULS"

DECEMBER 14th at 12:00



KNICKERBOCKER TAVERN
3957 6TH AVENUE
ALTOONA
(back party room)



Please bring three pairs of socks for either female or male, all sizes and all colors. (Please do not wrap them.) They will be donated to a community service of our choice soon to be announce.

Entertainment will be by Pastors Carol and Scott by presenting the "True Story of St. Nicholas". Learn how St Nick evolved into the modern version of Santa Claus.

Lunch provided by President Peggy Thatcher by utilizing funds from a Thrivent grant.

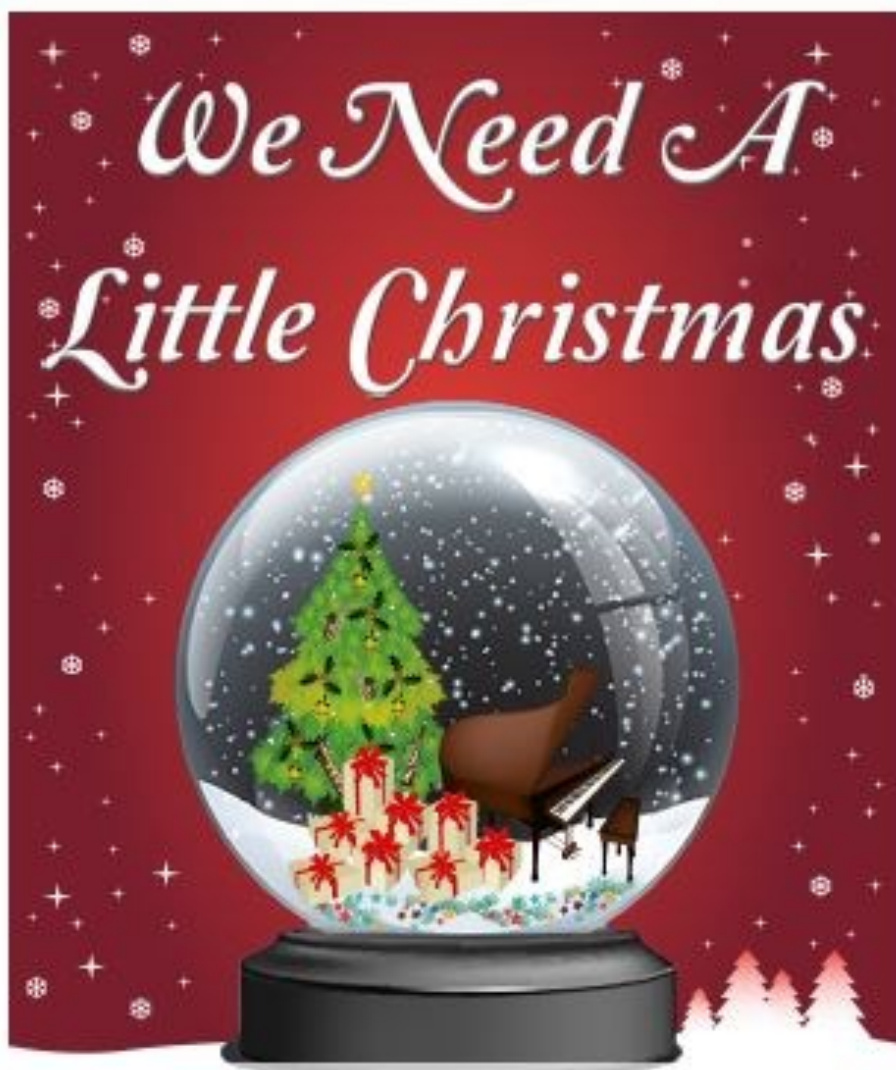
Thrivent offers advice on insurance, investments, banking and generosity

Please sign up by speaking to or calling Peggy Thatcher or Donna Wilt for your reservation.



THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®

Connecting faith & finances for good.®



Allegheny Chorale

featuring Benjamin Cossitor, Oboist

Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 7PM

First Presbyterian Church, Tyrone

Deborah Estright, Director

Free to the Public

Dec 1—Matthew 21:1-9, Psalm 118

Lord Jesus, thank You for humbling Yourself for us that we may be exalted with You forever. Amen

Dec 2—Jeremiah 23:5-8, Psalm 24

Merciful Father, thank You for declaring me righteous in Jesus. Amen

Dec 3—Romans 13:8-14, Psalm 6

Lord Jesus, come quickly to save us. Amen

Dec 4—Exodus 40:34-38, Psalm 122

“Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer, Pilgrim through this barren land” (LSB 918:1).
Amen

Dec 5—Deuteronomy 18:15-19, Psalm 40

Lord Jesus, deliver me from my fears and help me trust in You. Amen

Dec 6—Judges 6:11-24, Psalm 110

Mighty Lord, rescue me from my oppressors and persecutors. Amen

Dec 7—Hebrews 1:1-6, Psalm 67

Dear Father, in these last days, help me to cling to Your saving Word: Jesus.
Amen

Dec 8—Luke 21:25-36, Psalm 33

Come, Lord Jesus, to redeem us! Amen

Dec 9—Malachi 3:14-4:6, Psalm 73

O God, through my flesh and my heart may fail, You are the strength of my heart and my portion forever (Psalm 73:26). Amen

Dec 10—Genesis 18:1-15, Psalm 17

Lord, grant me to trust in the power of Your Word. Amen

Dec 11—Genesis 35:16-20, Psalm 16

O Lord, “You make known to me the path of life; ... at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore” (Psalm 16:11). Amen

Dec 12—Exodus 1:22-2:10, Psalm 50

Lord Jesus, keep me in safety, for You are my refuge. Amen

Dec 13—Judges 13:1-24, Psalm 14

Holy Lord, help me always to look to You for help and deliverance. Amen

Dec 14—1 Samuel 1:1-20, Psalm 91

Dear Father, grant me peace and joy in the birth of Your Son. Amen

Dec 15—Matthew 11:2-11, Psalm 20
Lord, keep me faithful in the midst of suffering. Amen

Dec 16—Isaiah 40:1-11, Psalm 119:105-112
Heavenly Father, thank You for the sure comfort You give us in Your Word. Amen

Dec 17—Titus 1, Psalm 126
Lord, help me always to be attentive to the preaching of Your saving Word. Amen

Dec 18—Titus 2, Psalm 34
Dear Father, thank You for the appearing of Your redeeming grace in Jesus.
Amen

Dec 19—Titus 3, Psalm 102
Lord God, help me never to trust in my own works but solely in Your life-giving
mercy. Amen

Dec 20—Matthew 1:18-25, Psalm 19
Grant me, Lord, always to trust in Your saving name. Amen

Dec 21—Luke 1:26-38, Psalm 132
Lord God, grant us, like Mary, to be Your faithful servants. Amen

Dec 22—Luke 1:39--56, Psalm 114
Grant us, Lord, to magnify Your saving mercy. Amen

Dec 23—Luke 1:57-80, Psalm 30
Praise be to You, Lord God, for Your redeeming visitation! Amen

Dec 24—Luke 2:1-20, Psalm 96
“O Jesus Christ, Thy manger is My paradise at which my soul reclineth” (LSB
372:1). Amen

Dec 25—John 1:1-14, Psalm 98
Thank You, Lord Jesus, for sharing in our humanity that we may share in Your
divine glory. Amen

Dec 26—Acts 6:8-15,7:51-60, Psalm 4
Lord, deliver me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute
me. Amen

Dec 27—1 John 1:1-2:2, Psalm 111
Thank You, Lord, for redeeming me in both body and soul. Amen

Dec 28—Matthew 2:13-23, Psalm 11

Lord, help me to trust in Your gracious will even in the midst of heartache and grief. Amen

Dec 29—Luke 2:25-40, Psalm 27

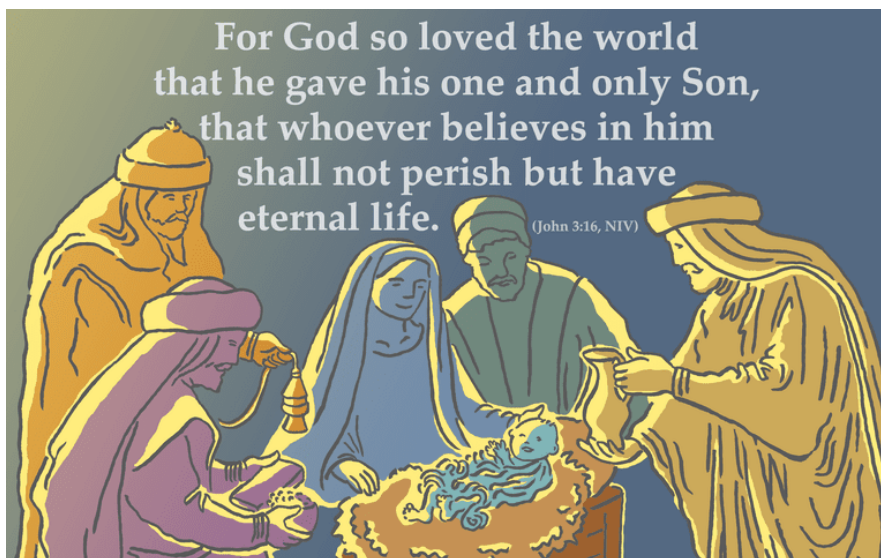
Lord, grant me strength of faith to wait for You. Amen

Dec 30—Galatians 4:1-7, Psalm 80

Father, grant me not to give way to fear but confidently to hope in Your restoring mercy. Amen

Dec 31—Romans 8:31-39, Psalm 39

Dear Father, grant me to enter the new year trusting in Your love for me in Jesus. 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,
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15.***

Announcements and Upcoming Events

POINSETTIA ORDER DEADLINE	NOV 27TH 12 PM
THANKSGIVING (NO SERVICE)	NOV 28TH
SWEETS AND TREATS	DEC 1ST
BULLETIN DEADLINE	DEC 3RD 10:30AM
MIDWEEK ADVENT LUNCH SERVICE	DEC 4TH 12 PM
<i>*Held at Bethany Lutheran</i>	
MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE	DEC 4TH 6:30 PM
<i>*Held at Bethany Lutheran</i>	
CHOIR PRACTICE	DEC 5TH 7 PM
DECORATE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS	DEC 7TH 10 AM
<i>* Pizza will be provided</i>	
COUNCIL MEETING	DEC 8TH 12 PM
<i>* Note this is a date change to Sundays following worship</i>	
MIDWEEK ADVENT LUNCH SERVICE	DEC 11TH 12 PM
<i>*Held at Trinity Lutheran</i>	
MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE	DEC 11TH 6:30 PM
<i>*Held at Bethany Lutheran</i>	
BULLETIN DEADLINE	DEC 10TH 10:30AM
CHOIR PRACTICE	DEC 12TH 7 PM
WELCA CHRISTMAS PARTY	DEC 14TH 12 PM
KIRCHENBLATT ARTICLE DEADLINE	DEC 15TH 12 PM
BULLETIN DEADLINE	DEC 17TH 10:30AM
MIDWEEK ADVENT LUNCH SERVICE	DEC 18TH 12 PM
<i>*Held at Bethany Lutheran</i>	
MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE	DEC 18TH 6:30 PM
<i>*Held at Bethany Lutheran</i>	
CHOIR PRACTICE	DEC 19TH 7 PM
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE	DEC 24 TH 7:30 PM

SWEETS AND TREATS

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH.

**OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS WILL BE
December 1st
SPONSORED BY: Evelyn & Bob Holsinger**

* 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!





**Christmas Eve Service
December 24th 7:30 PM**

No Service December 25th

**For the winter month's of
December, January, February
and March, Council Meetings
will be held the 2nd Sunday
following worship.**



First winter meeting:

December 8th



We will be decorating the church for Christmas on December 7th. We will un-decorate on January 11th. Pizza will be provided for those who come to help.



Christmas Poinsettias

Bless our Sanctuary and your home this Christmas with a beautiful red poinsettia! For each \$7.50 you contribute to the St. James Flower Fund, a flower will be placed in the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve and will be available for you to take with you following our Christmas Eve Service. If you would rather donate the flower for a shut-or or friend of St. James, you may indicate that choice on this order form.

Please complete the form and return it to the church. **The deadline for poinsettia orders and payments is Wednesday, November 27, 2019.** Thank you for your generosity in this endeavor!

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

This donation is made:

In Honor of: _____

Or

In Memory of: _____

Amount of Contribution: _____

Number of Christmas Poinsettias: _____

Envelope Number: _____

Please check one:

_____ Yes, I do want to take the poinsettia (s) home with me.

_____ No. I don't want to take the poinsettia (s). I would like them to be given to a shut in or friend of St. James

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
- *Sharon Lightner

Finance

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

Property

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

Stewardship/Evangelism

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

* Denotes Council Member