

St. James Evangelical **Lutheran Church December 1, 2019** First Sunday of Advent Communion

Worship every Sunday 10:45 AM

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.

Pastor: Revs. Scott & Carol Custead PULPIT SUPPLY: PASTOR LARRY LOUDER

Church Organist/Choir Director: PATRICIA McCONNELL Administrative Assistant: Tim Surkovich

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

Announcements: If you cannot read the hymns, you can turn to the hymn in the red ELW hymnal in the pew racks.

Prelude: Invocation In B Flat Alexandre Guilmant (We take this time to silently prepare our hearts and minds for worship)

PLEASE STAND

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin.

An extended silence may be kept.

Merciful God,

We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

We Gather

*GATHERING SONG:

O Zion, Haste

ELW 668

O Zion, Haste



Text: Mary A. Thomson, 1834–1923 Music: ANGELIC SONGS, James Welch, 1837–1901

*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





*PRAYER OF THE DAY:

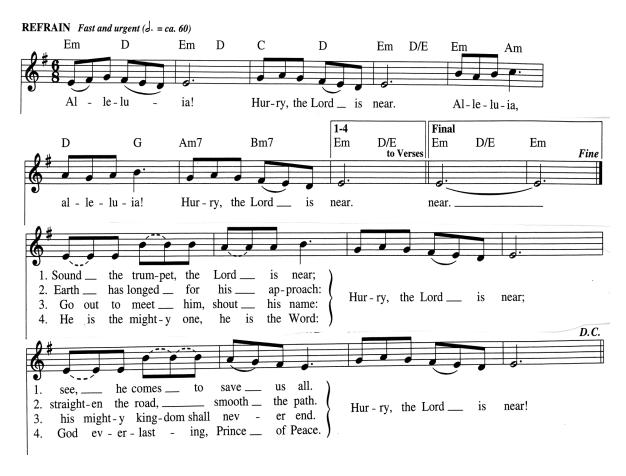
P: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

* LIGHTING OF 1ST ADVENT CANDLE

*Candle Lighting Hymn Alleluia! Hurry, The Lord Is Near Sing Only Verse 1

ALLELUIA! HURRY, THE LORD IS NEAR



We Listen to the Word

First Reading:

Isaiah 2:1-5

A reading from Isaiah.

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ²In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 122

¹I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."

²Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

³Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;

⁴to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.

⁵For there are the thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

⁶Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.

⁷Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers.

⁸For the sake of my kindred and companions, I pray for your prosperity.

⁹Because of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek to do you good."

ANTHEM: Hymn of Advent

Second Reading:

Romans 13:11-14

A reading from Romans.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

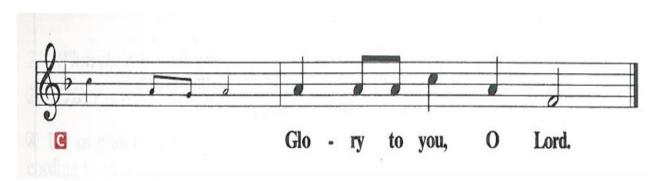




*GOSPEL:

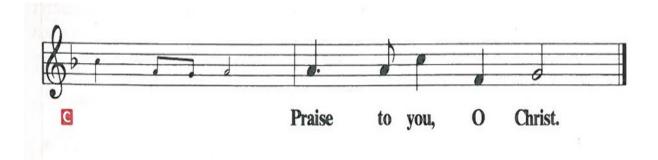
Matthew 24:36-44

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.



[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶"About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

The Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon

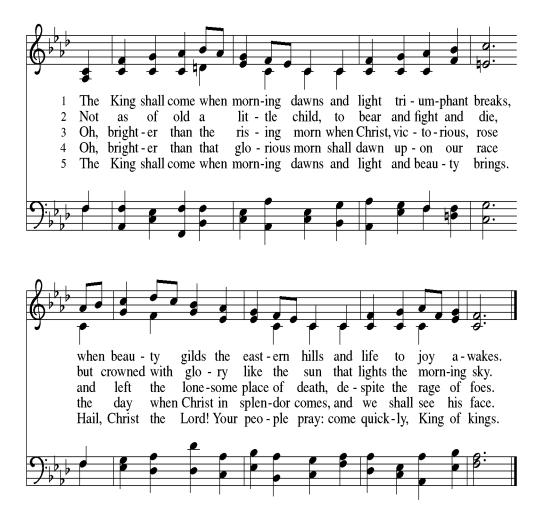
We Respond to the Word

*Hymn of the Day: (next page)

The King Shall Come

ELW 260

The King Shall Come



Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925 Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003

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*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

Keeping awake as we watch for Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, the church cries to you. Strengthen the church in the land of Jesus' birth. Wherever Christians gather, empower them to proclaim love and defy the powers of sin and evil. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, your creation cries to you. Sustain the balance of all living things. Protect the earth from drought, bitter cold, eroding coastlines, and fires and floods, that the earth may flourish. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, the nations cry to you. Bring justice to the marginalized, courage to peacemakers, wisdom to leaders, and hope to generations who have only known conflict, oppression, or poverty. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, your people cry to you. Comfort those separated from loved ones by distance, estrangement, or loss. Help us as we care for others and rely on others' care. (*We pray especially for . . .*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, this congregation (*or place of ministry*) cries to you. Guide our worship, service, and outreach, that our hearts and hands may be opened in generosity toward others. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, we remember those whose days on earth have ended, who live now in your eternal love (*especially*). Remind us of their faithful witness, that their example might inspire our daily living. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You hear the cries of our hearts, O Lord. Fill us with hopeful expectation, that in each day and hour we may love and serve our neighbors, in Jesus' name.

Amen.

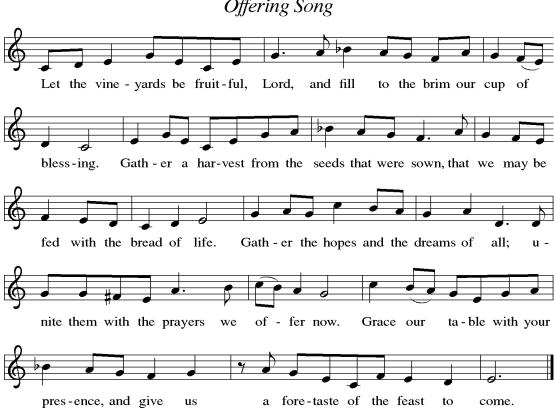
- *Sharing of the Peace
- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C And also with you.

We Offer Our Gifts

Offertory: Noel Alexandre Guilmant

*Offertory Hymn: Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Offering Song



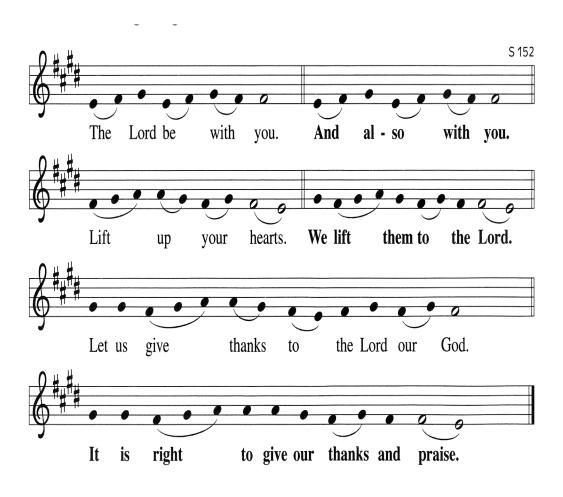
*Offering Prayer:

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.

A: Amen.

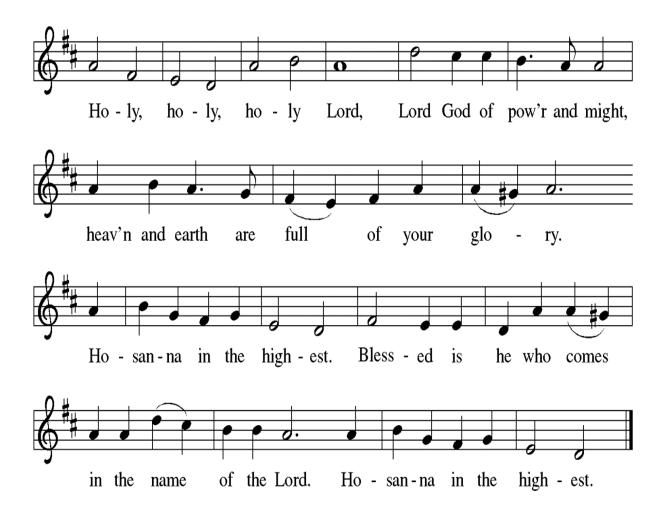
We Share the Feast

*Holy Communion



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, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



*Thanksgiving at the Table

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we might receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

For it is our Lord Jesus, who in the night in which he was betrayed 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 the 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".

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

*The Lord's Prayer

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.

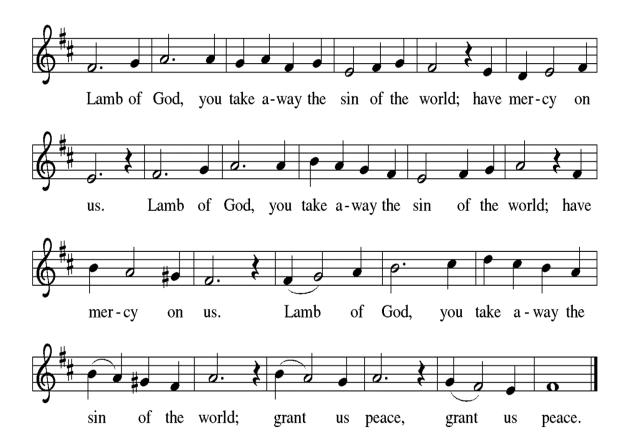
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

*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



*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

LBW Pg 72



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



*Prayer after Communion

P: God of abundance, we give you thanks that in this holy meal you have invited us to feast with you and one another. May the taste of your love remain with us, and may our words and our work in your name invite others into your bountiful grace. Send us from your table to proclaim your presence, even as we await the glorious coming of Christ our Savior.

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**.

*Sending Song:

Fling Wide the Door

ELW 259

(next page)

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

*Postlude: O Thou that Tellest Good Tidings G.F. Handel

Fling Wide the Door



Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943 Music: MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR, J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704; arr. hymnal version Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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 pastors will be away November 26 through December 2. During this period pastoral emergencies are being covered by Pastor Eli Hess. Her contact information is:

Office: 814-943-3972 Cell: 814-381-5925

pastor@trinityaltoona.com

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.****



UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

SWEETS AND TREATS TODAY	DEC 1ST 10 AM	
BULLETIN DEADLINE	DEC 3RD 10:30AM	
MIDWEEK ADVENT LUNCH SERVICE	DEC 4TH 12 PM	
*Held at Bethany Lutheran, See announcement in the bulletin		
MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE	DEC 4TH 6:30 PM	
*Held at Bethany Lutheran, See announcement in the bulletin		
CHOIR PRACTICE	DEC 5TH 7 PM	
DECORATE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS	DEC 7TH 10 AM	
* Pizza will be provided		
COUNCIL MEETING	DEC 8TH 12 PM	
* Note this is a date change to Sundays following worship		
MIDWEEK ADVENT LUNCH SERVICE	-	
*Held at Trinity Lutheran, See announcement in the bulletin		
MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE	DEC 11TH 6:30 PM	
*Held at Bethany Lutheran, See announcement in the bulletin		
BULLETIN DEADLINE	DEC 10TH 10:30AM	
CHOIR PRACTICE	DEC 12TH 7 PM	
WELCA CHRISTMAS PARTY	DEC 14TH 12 PM	
* See the announcement in the bulletin for details		
KIRCHENBLATT ARTICLE DEADLINE	DEC 15TH 12 PM	
BULLETIN DEADLINE	DEC 17TH 10:30AM	
MIDWEEK ADVENT LUNCH SERVICE	DEC 18TH 12 PM	
*Held at Bethany Lutheran, See announcement in the bulletin		
MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE	DEC 18TH 6:30 PM	
*Held at Bethany Lutheran, See announcement in the bulletin		
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE	DEC 24TH 7:30 PM	

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 Presbyterian Village in Hollidaysburg:

Robert Civils Patti Green

Allegheny Lutheran Home: In their own homes:

Janet Kauffman Deborah Manbeck Glenn Dell

John Wiederkehr



SWEETS AND TREATS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH.

OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS WILL BE TODAY December 1, 2019 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!



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.

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Christmas Eve Service December 24th 7:30 PM

No Service December 25th



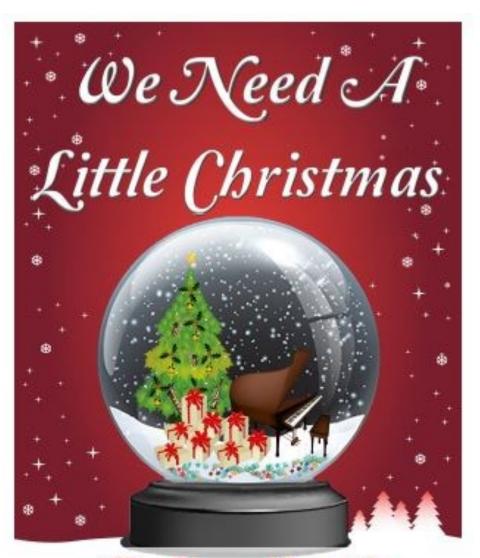
For the winter month's of December, January, February and March, Council Meetings will be held the 2nd Sunday following worship.

First winter meeting:

December 8th



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



Allegheny Chorale

featuring Benjamin Cossitor, Oboist

Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 7PM
First Presbyterian Church, Tyrone

Deborah Estright, Director

Free to the Public



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.



RETIRE TO YOUR OWN BEAT



When your savings and spending plans are in harmony, retirement can be music to your ears.

Achieving this balance starts with a plan that helps ensure you can cover your expenses and still have enough money to sustain the retirement lifestyle you've always wanted.

I am here to help you get started.

Contact me today.



Thrivent was named one of the "World's Most Ethical Companies" by Ethisphere Institute 2012–2018.



Andrea K. Paul, RICP*, CLTC*, FIC Financial Associate 412 Allegheny Street Suite 103 Hollidaysburg, PA 16648 814-695-3496 andrea.paul@thrivent.com

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