

**St. James Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
December 8, 2019  
Second Sunday of Advent**

**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  
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: Comfort, Comfort Ye My People arr. Johann Schop  
*(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: On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry  
*(next page)*

ELW 249

## On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us  
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
 way for God with - in, and let us all our  
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -  
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.  
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite  
 Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

### \*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.**

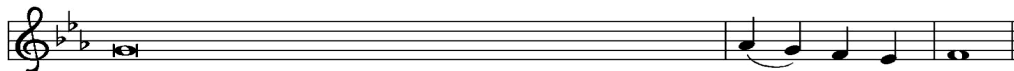
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



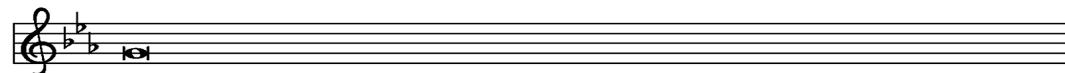
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



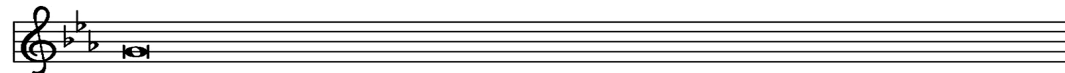
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

# Glory to God

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

P: Let us pray.

**Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

**\* LIGHTING OF 2ND ADVENT CANDLE**

**\*Candle Lighting Hymn  
Sing Only Verse 2**

**Alleluia! Hurry, The Lord Is Near**

# ALLELUIA! HURRY, THE LORD IS NEAR

REFRAIN *Fast and urgent* (♩. = ca. 60)

Em D Em D C D Em D/E Em Am

Al - le - lu - ia! Hur - ry, the Lord \_ is near. Al - le - lu - ia,

D G Am7 Bm7

1-4	Final
Em D/E to Verses	Em D/E Em

*Fine*

al - le - lu - ia! Hur - ry, the Lord \_ is near. near. \_\_\_\_\_

1. Sound \_ the trum - pet, the Lord \_ is near;  
2. Earth \_ has longed \_ for his \_ ap - proach:  
3. Go out to meet \_ him, shout \_ his name:  
4. He is the might - y one, he is the Word: } Hur - ry, the Lord \_ is near;

*D.C.*

1. see, \_ he comes \_ to save \_ us all.  
2. straight - en the road, \_ smooth \_ the path.  
3. his might - y king - dom shall nev - er end.  
4. God ev - er - last - ing, Prince \_ of Peace. } Hur - ry, the Lord \_ is near!

## *We Listen to the Word*

### **First Reading:**

**Isaiah 11:1-10**

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. <sup>2</sup>The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. <sup>3</sup>His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

<sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. <sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. <sup>10</sup>On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM**

**72:1-7, 18-19**

<sup>1</sup>Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;

<sup>2</sup>**that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;**

<sup>3</sup>that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

<sup>4</sup>**Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

<sup>5</sup>May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

<sup>6</sup>**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.**

<sup>7</sup>In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

<sup>18</sup>**Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds!**

<sup>19</sup>And blessed be your glorious name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

## **ANTHEM: Hymn of Advent**

### **Second Reading:**

### **Romans 15:4-13**

A reading from Romans.

<sup>4</sup>Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,



“Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,  
and sing praises to your name”;

<sup>10</sup>and again he says,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”;

<sup>11</sup>and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him”;

<sup>12</sup>and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

<sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that  
you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation



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

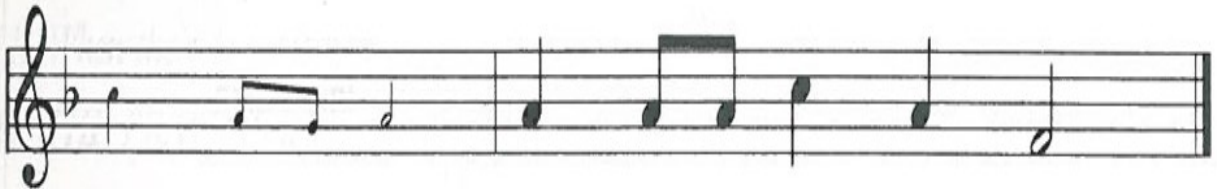


You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

**\*GOSPEL:**

**Matthew 3:1-12**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.’”

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup>Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup>“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

## The Gospel of the Lord.



C

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

### *We Respond to the Word*

\*Hymn of the Day:  
(next page)

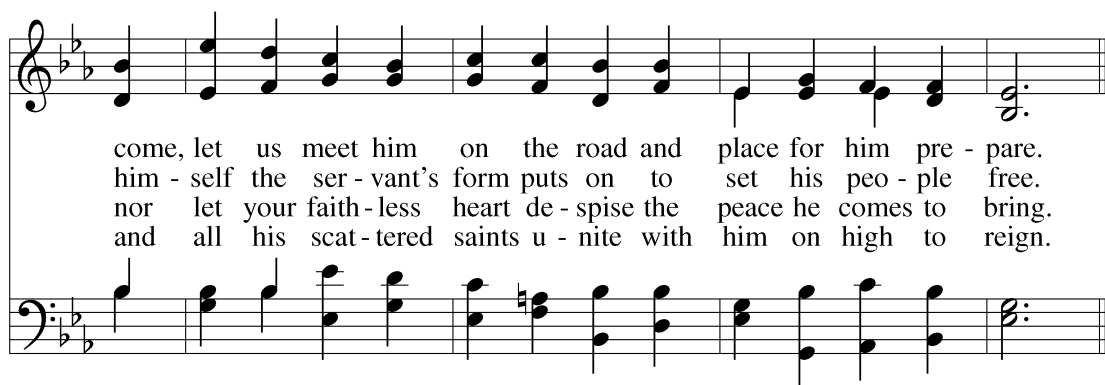
The Advent of Our Lord

LBW 22

## The Advent of Our God



1 The ad - vent of our God shall be our theme for prayer;  
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son in - car - nate stoops to be,  
3 Come, Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise to meet your low - ly king,  
4 As judge, on clouds of light, he soon will come a - gain,



come, let us meet him on the road and place for him pre - pare.  
him - self the ser - vant's form puts on to set his peo - ple free.  
nor let your faith - less heart de - spise the peace he comes to bring.  
and all his scat - tered saints u - nite with him on high to reign.

5 Before the dawning day  
let sin be put to flight;  
no longer let the law hold sway,  
but walk in freedom's light.

6 All glory to the Son,  
who comes to set us free,  
with Father, Spirit, ever one  
through all eternity.

## **\*Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. 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: O Come, O Come Emmanuel arr. Winston Cassler

\*Offertory Hymn: We Give Thee but Thine Own  
(next page)

# We Give Thee but Thine Own

1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;

all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.

Music: HEATH, L. Mason and G. Webb, *Cantica Lauda*, 1850

**\*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.

**C: Amen.**

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.**



## ***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:                      Hark, the Glad Sound!                      ELW 239  
(*next page*)

### **\*Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

### **C: Thanks be to God!**

\*Postlude:                      Wake, Awake!                      P. Nicolai/E.J. Lorenz

## Hark, the Glad Sound!

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

# **\*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](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)

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:

<b>COUNCIL MEETING</b>	<b>DEC 8TH 12 PM</b>
<i>* Note this is a date change to Sundays following worship</i>	
<b>MIDWEEK ADVENT LUNCH SERVICE</b>	<b>DEC 11TH 12 PM</b>
<i>*Held at Trinity Lutheran, See announcement in the bulletin</i>	
<b>MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE</b>	<b>DEC 11TH 6:30 PM</b>
<i>*Held at Bethany Lutheran, See announcement in the bulletin</i>	
<b>BULLETIN DEADLINE</b>	<b>DEC 10TH 10:30AM</b>
<b>CHOIR PRACTICE</b>	<b>DEC 12TH 7 PM</b>
<b>WELCA CHRISTMAS PARTY</b>	<b>DEC 14TH 12 PM</b>
<i>* See the announcement in the bulletin for details</i>	
<b>KIRCHENBLATT ARTICLE DEADLINE</b>	<b>DEC 15TH 12 PM</b>
<b>BULLETIN DEADLINE</b>	<b>DEC 17TH 10:30AM</b>
<b>MIDWEEK ADVENT LUNCH SERVICE</b>	<b>DEC 18TH 12 PM</b>
<i>*Held at Bethany Lutheran, See announcement in the bulletin</i>	
<b>MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE</b>	<b>DEC 18TH 6:30 PM</b>
<i>*Held at Bethany Lutheran, See announcement in the bulletin</i>	
<b>CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE</b>	<b>DEC 24TH 7:30 PM</b>

### **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 Hollidaysburg:**

Patti Green

#### **Allegheny Lutheran Home:**

Janet Kauffman

#### **In their own homes:**

Deborah Manbeck

Glenn Dell

John Wiederkehr



## **SWEETS AND TREATS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH.**

**OUR NEXT SWEETS AND  
TREATS WILL BE:  
January 5, 2020**

\* 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**

# **WELCAS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**

## **"SOCKS FOR SOULS"**

**DECEMBER 14th at 12:00**

**KNICKERBOCKER TAVERN  
3957 6<sup>TH</sup> 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.

# 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

<b>Date</b>	<b>12 noon Service</b>	<b>6:30 pm Service</b>
Dec 11 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity Lutheran	Bethany Lutheran
Dec 18 <sup>th</sup>	Bethany Lutheran	Bethany Lutheran



*We Need A  
Little Christmas*



***Allegheny Chorale***

*featuring Benjamin Cossitor, Oboist*

***Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 7PM***

*First Presbyterian Church, Tyrone*

***Deborah Estright, Director***

Free to the Public



## ***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.**





**St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
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**Altoona, PA 16602**  
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**[www.stjamesaltoona.org](http://www.stjamesaltoona.org)**