

# Kirchenblatt March 2020

(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 March 2020



KIRCHENBLATT



We just returned from another awesome cross-country ski outing here in northern Michigan where we are spending some “winter-for-real” time. As I write this I am sitting in the rental cottage adjacent to our daughter and son-in-law’s house right on the south shore of Lake Superior and I can look out the picture window at the “ice volcanos” (google that!) that have formed at the edge of the ice wall off of the beach. We only have a few days left here before we will return home, but the relaxation time has given me a chance to reflect on the trip we made to the Holy Land, before coming here, with several colleagues, hosted by Bishop Rhyne, with Good Shepherd Travel Tours.

We saw so many sights in the Holy Land that it all has become a bit of a blur in my mind. But several things stand out for me. For one thing, it was not like I had always pictured it. It was very hilly and mountainous and the soil was very rocky. There are very few trees, and the ones that do grow there are small and shrub-like, such as the olive tree. There are still many shepherds tending herds of sheep throughout the region. Most of the significant sites from the events of Jesus’ life now have churches or chapels built on them. Still, however, a few sites that were extremely memorable and inspiring to me stand out.

One of these sites was the Church of the Holy Nativity in Bethlehem which we visited on my birthday! After waiting an hour in a long line, Scott and I were able to go into a small grotto, kneel before a small altar to reach underneath and touch a mosaic star on the floor that marks the spot believed to be where Jesus was born!

## PASTOR'S LETTER FOR March 2020



KIRCHENBLATT



Another of these sites was the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. It is up on the hill where Jesus was crucified according to tradition. We waited in line again to enter a grotto where part of the cave tomb still exists and the place where Jesus' body was laid is there. It was only a few steps away from the place where he was crucified. And, it was the place where the Resurrection occurred!

The most inspiring place to me that we visited was the beach along the Sea of Galilee where the resurrected Jesus appeared to the disciples and he told Peter to "Feed my sheep." I have a plaque that says that in Swedish. It belonged to my Grandfather who was a Swedish Lutheran Pastor. It is a significant part of my own call story.

It was amazing to be in the actual places where Jesus lived and to literally follow his footsteps. But we do not need to be in the Holy Land to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. There are other ways to do this. Reading the gospels is one good way. Have you ever read the whole gospel of Matthew, Mark, or Luke? It can be very inspirational, especially if you can do it in one sitting! This might be a good thing to do in Lent.

Another way is to attend worship regularly and follow the lessons. Our church year takes us through the life of Jesus, his death and resurrection. And, as Holy Week and Easter approach remember that attending the Holy Week services helps us walk with Jesus to his cross. Easter will be all the more meaningful then.

So, I close by wishing you all a blessed Lenten Season. See you in church soon!

*-Pastor Carol Custead*

Contribution & Attendance Summary

December 2018

Contributions \$2,955.25  
Average Weekly Attendance: 27

December 2019

Contributions \$3,068.00  
Average Weekly Attendance: 25

INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY

December 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019

INCOME

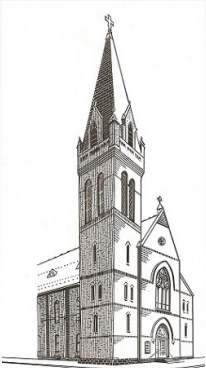
Bank Interest	\$0.04
Contributions	
General	\$3,038.00
Designated	.\$30.00
Special	\$250.00
Other Income	\$7,000.00
	<hr/>
	\$10,318.04

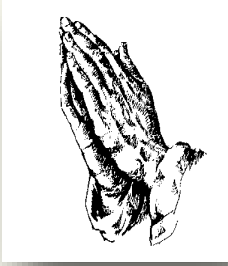
EXPENSES

Pastoral Administration	\$2,438.77
Worship & Music	\$830.86
Office	\$1,172.42
Custodial & Property	\$2,269.28
Uncategorized	.\$611.10
	<hr/>
	\$7,322.43

March Birthdays

Stephanie Feather	3/13
Patti Green	3/20
Kelcie Kenney	3/20
Kristine Muller	3/5
Elijah Svidergol	3/24
Kenny Vandevander	3/31





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

See Bishop Rhyné's Ash Wednesday message on page 7

*Remember In Your Prayers*

**Our Prayer List:**

Tim Surkovich

Joe Yanke

Jean Bickel

Patti Green

Judy Dambeck

Donna Foster

(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

***Allegheny Lutheran Home:***

Janet Kauffman

***Homewood:***

Sylvia Malsatzki

***In their own homes:***

Deborah Manbeck      Glenn Dell

John Wiederkehr



## Easter Flowers

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

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This Donation is made:

IHO: 

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IMO: 

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Choice of Flowers:

☐ Yellow Tulips 5/6 Bulb (\$9)      ☐ 8"Daffodils(\$12.50)

☐ Lilies single stem (\$10)

Amount of Contribution: \$ 

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 Envelope Number: 

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Please Check One:


☐ Yes, I do want to take the flower(s) home with me.

☐ No, I do not want to take the flower(s) home with me. I would like them to be given to a shut-in or friend of St. James.

Please use the My Offering envelope in your pew to place your order and payment. Check the Flower Fund box on the envelope and place in the offering plate.

Orders must be received by March 19, 2020

## Ash Wednesday 2020



The first time I assisted with the Imposition of Ashes was during my internship year in seminary. The congregation I was serving had an altar rail where people would kneel for ashes. The pastor went one way around the rail and I went the other. It was going pretty well until I came to a mother with a one-year-old little boy. He was wearing only a diaper and was perfectly content sitting on top of the altar rail. His mother asked me if he also could have ashes. So, I made the ash cross and said to this very young child, “Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return.” I hadn’t expected how deeply this would touch me. The Imposition of Ashes is a solemn and a holy event. It holds up a mirror to our mortality and reminds us we will meet death one day. We shall all return to the earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

In placing ashes on that child, I was struck by how all-encompassing is our mortality. I had a moment of existential angst realizing that truly none of us will survive this life. Death will come one day for all of us—even this little one. It was a sobering moment.

If Ash Wednesday were only a reminder of our mortality then it would be a very sad day. Through my experience with this young child I was reminded we don’t just smudge ashes on people’s foreheads—we make the sign of the cross.

On this first day of Lent we remember it is through the cross Jesus saves us. The cross was death for our Lord—a death he went to willingly because of his great love for us.

In the waters of Baptism, we are claimed by Jesus and the sign of the cross is marked on our forehead to remind us nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. The ash cross we receive today reminds us we belong to the Lord who made heaven and earth and he will never let us go.

May God continue to bless and keep you through this season of Lent.

**+Bishop Michael Rhyne**  
Allegheny Synod

Mar 1—Genesis 3:1-3, Psalm 33:1-9

As by one man all mankind fell and, born in sin, was doomed to hell so by one Man, who took place, we all were justified by grace (LSB 562:5). Amen

Mar 2—Genesis 3:4-7, Psalm 33:10-17

Lord Jesus Christ, remind us that doubts about You come from Satan. Keep us in the study of Your Word that our faith may grow. Amen

Mar 3—Genesis 3:8-13, Psalm 32:1-4

Lord Jesus Christ, we live in Your love because of Your grace. Thank You for covering our sin and choosing to see it no more. Amen

Mar 4—Genesis 3:16-21, Psalm 39

Upon your lips, then, lay your hand, and trust His guiding love; then like a rock your peace shall stand here and in hea'n above (LSB 737:7). Amen

Mar 5—Romans 5:12-19, Psalm 32:5-11

Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me, died that I might live on high, lives that I might never die (LSB 611:1). Amen

Mar 6—Matthew 4:1-4, Psalm 57:1-4

Lord Jesus Christ, we ask You bless us with strength while we live in the knowledge of Your forgiveness. Amen

Mar 7—Matthew 4:8-11, Psalm 26

Frail children of dust and feeble as frail, in Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail, Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end, O maker, defender, redeemer, and friend! (LSB 804:5) Amen

Mar 8—Genesis 12:1-3, Psalm 45

I love Your kingdom, Lord, the place of Your abode, the church our blest Redeemer saved with His own precious blood (LSB 651:1). Amen

Mar 9—Genesis 12:4-6, Psalm 25:1-15

Therefore I murmur not, Heav'n is my home; whate'er my earthly lot, Heav'n is my home; and I shall surely stand there at my Lord's right hand; Heav'n is my fatherland, Heav'n is my home (LSB 748:3). Amen

Mar 10—Genesis 12:7-9, Psalm 27

Lord Jesus Christ, I praise and thank You for faith and salvation. Send Your Spirit to enable me to worship You with my daily words and actions. Amen

Mar 11—Romans 4:1-12, Psalm 25:16-22

May Thy rich grace impact strength to my fainting heart: my zeal inspire! As thou hast died for me, Oh may my love to Thee pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire! (LSB 702:2). Amen



Mar 12—Romans 4:13-17, Psalm 17:8-15

Lord Jesus Christ, thank You for making us a part of Your family through our Baptism. We live with the assurance of Your promise Amen

Mar 13—John 3:1-15, Psalm 4

Lord Jesus Christ, bless us with faith and wisdom that lead us to trust You in everything. Amen

Mar 14—John 3:16-18, Psalm 61

God loves me dearly, grants me salvation, God loves me dearly, loves even me. Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly, God loves me dearly, loves even me (LSB 392:1). Amen

Mar 15—Exodus 17:1-3, Psalm 13

Lord Jesus Christ, fill our hearts with faith in Your loving care. Let us trust You rather than test You. Amen

Mar 16—Exodus 17:4-7, Psalm 95:6-11

Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, see Him dying on the tree! 'Tis the Christ, by man rejected; yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He! 'Tis the long-expected Prophet, David's Son, yet David's Lord; proofs I see sufficient of it: 'Tis the true and faithful Word (LSB 451:1). Amen

Mar 17—Romans 5:1-2, Psalm 102:1-17

Lord Jesus Christ, each day I ruin my precious relationship with You, and each day You answer with forgiveness and mercy as You welcome me back into Your arms. For this I am so very grateful. Amen

Mar 18—Romans 102:18-28, Psalm 102:18-28

Lord Jesus Christ, bless us in our suffering. Allow us to feel the joy that Your mercy brings us. Amen

Mar 19—John 4:7-24, Psalm 93

Thus might I hide my blushing face while His dear cross appears, dissolve my heart in thankfulness, and melt mine eyes to tears (LSB 437:4). Amen

Mar 20—John 4:25-42, Psalm 47

I am trusting Thee to guide me; Thou alone shalt lead, every day and hour supplying all my need (LSB 729:4). Amen

Mar 21—Romans 1:8-17, Psalm 24

Heavenly Father, Your power, Gospel, and faith are all we will ever need. Help us share this power with others. Amen

Mar 22—Isaiah 42:14-17, Psalm 142

Lord Jesus Christ, we are blessed to know You are in charge of our lives and our faith. Amen

Mar 23—Isaiah 42:18-21, Psalm 19:1-11

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank You for Your Law, which draws us to You in a spirit of repentance. Amen

Mar 24—Ephesians 5:8-11, Psalm 19:12-14

Holy Spirit, light divine, shine upon this heart of mine; chase the shades of night away, turn the darkness into day (LSB 496:1). Amen

Mar 25—Luke 1:26-38, Psalm 5

All glory to the Son, who comes to set us free, with Father, Spirit, ever one through all eternity (LSB 331:6). Amen

Mar 26—Ephesians 5:12-14, Psalm 103:1-14

Lord Jesus Christ, shine Your light on us today. Bring us to repentance and forgive our sins that people may see Your love in our actions. Amen

Mar 27—John 9:1-25, Psalm 103:15-22

Lord Jesus Christ, open our eyes that we may see Your grace. Amen

Mar 28—John 9:35-41, Psalm 18:16-30

Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me, died that I might live on high, lives that I might never die. As the branch is to the vine, I am His and He is mine (LSB 611:1). Amen

Mar 29—Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 130

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit (LSB 956). Amen

Mar 30—Romans 8:8-11, Psalm 63

I lay my sins on Jesus, the spotless Lamb of God; He bears them all and frees us from the accursed load. I bring my guilt to Jesus to wash my crimson stains clean in His blood most precious till not a spot remains (LSB 606:1). Amen

Mar 31—John 11:17-27, Psalm 9:1-14

Lord Jesus Christ, You conquered death on our behalf so we can live in the light of Your victory. Amen

# **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 SUB-  
MITTED BY THE 15TH OF THE MONTH, PLEASE CALL AND RE-  
SERVE A SPACE FOR YOUR ARTICLE SO THAT THE KIRCHEN-  
BLATT CAN BE FORMATTED AHEAD OF TIME TO PROVIDE  
SPACE FOR ALL THE CONGREGATIONAL NEWS.\*\*\*\***

***DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS,  
SUNDAY, MARCH 15.***

## **Announcements and Upcoming Events**

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**  
**CHOIR PRACTICE**  
**SWEETS AND TREATS**  
**BULLETIN DEADLINE**  
**LENTEN LUNCH SERIES BETHANY**  
**LENTEN SERIES BETHANY**  
**CHOIR PRACTICE**  
**BULLETIN DEADLINE**  
**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**LENTEN LUNCH SERIES BETHANY**  
**LENTEN SERIES BETHANY**  
**CHOIR PRACTICE**  
**WELCA MEETING**  
**BULLETIN DEADLINE**  
**LENTEN LUNCH SERIES BETHANY**  
**LENTEN SERIES BETHANY**  
**EASTER FLOWER ORDER DEADLINE**  
**CHOIR PRACTICE**  
**BULLETIN DEADLINE**  
**LENTEN LUNCH SERIES ST JAMES**  
**LENTEN SERIES BETHANY**  
**CHOIR PRACTICE**  
**PALM SUNDAY**  
**MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE**  
**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE**  
**EASTER SUNDAY**

**FEB 26TH 12 PM**  
**FEB 27TH 7 PM**  
**MAR 1ST 10 AM**  
**MAR 2ND 10:30AM**  
**MAR 4TH 12 PM**  
**MAR 4TH 6:30PM**  
**MAR 4TH 7 PM**  
**MAR 10TH 10:30AM**  
**MAR 10TH 6 PM**  
**MAR 11TH 12 PM**  
**MAR 11TH 6:30PM**  
**MAR 12TH 7 PM**  
**MAR 14TH 10 AM**  
**MAR 17TH 10:30AM**  
**MAR 18TH 12 PM**  
**MAR 18TH 6:30PM**  
**MAR 19TH 12 PM**  
**MAR 19TH 7 PM**  
**MAR 24TH 10:30AM**  
**MAR 25TH 12 PM**  
**MAR 25TH 6:30PM**  
**MAR 26TH 7 PM**  
**APR 5TH**  
**APR 9TH 7 PM**  
**APR 10TH 2 PM**  
**APR 12TH**



Evangelical Lutheran  
 Church in America  
 God's work. Our hands.



# **SWEETS AND TREATS**

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

**OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS  
WILL BE  
March 1ST**

\* 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!



**Next meeting:**

**March 10th 6PM**

# **I AM**

*A Lenten Series on the I AM statements of Jesus*

Taking place, every Wednesday at  
12 noon & 6:30 pm during Lent

**March 25th 12 noon 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*

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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

#### Christian Education/ Social Ministry

**\*Evelyn Holsinger**  
\*Carolyn Feather  
\*Sylvia Malsatzki  
\*Donna Wilt  
\*Kim Vandevander  
Shirley Manbeck  
\*Sharon Lightner

#### Worship & Music

**\*Mark Hoover**  
\*Dana Detwiler  
\*Donna Foster  
\*Sylvia Malsatzki  
Pat McConnell  
\*Sharon Lightner

#### Finance

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

#### Stewardship/Evangelism

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

#### By-Laws

**\*Mark Hoover**  
\*Betty Boslet  
\*Carolyn Feather  
Edith Trinks

#### Property

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

\* Denotes Council Member