

Kirchenblatt April 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 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
April 2020**

This is a strange time. I don't think I have ever experienced the church being closed. Because Pastor Carol and I throughout most of ministry lived next door to the Church, even the largest snow storms did not cancel worship. I remember one Sunday when the attendance was simply me, Carol, and our two children, but church went on. Now, however, we are closed by the coronavirus. It might seem like some medieval story about the plague, except at this point there are not only no dead people, I don't even know anyone who is sick. It is like a blizzard with no snow.

It does make you realize how unpredictable things can be. My retirement fund has tanked. There is no toilet paper to be found. I can't go to the gym. But...the lights are on, the grandkids are still playing, I'm making corned beef and cabbage, and doing a little yard work. Is this all going to go away? Is the proverbial other shoe about to drop? Are we going to have Easter services and laugh together about this? Should I get my funeral suit dry cleaned and ready to go?

**PASTOR'S LETTER FOR
April 2020**

I don't know. That is hard for me. I am advance planner. I have at least the next year carefully laid out in the calendar. How about you? How are you handling this unique time and the stress that comes with it? Are you resting in the Lord? Staying awake worrying? Enjoying the quiet? Craving getting out among people?

I guess that it part of the stress; being separated. It would be good to have a potluck and check in with each other. It would be nice to share the peace and get a hand shake or a hug, but we are told to social distance ourselves. That is good advice, and it is a way we help protect each other. We don't, however, have to spiritually distance ourselves. We can pray more deeply for each other and for St. James. We can use our forced time of solitude to increase our effort to connect to God and each other in prayer.

Hopefully, this will all blow over. Hopefully, we will all say be able to say it seemed overblown and overdone. However it works out. I hope it leaves us with a deeper appreciation of being able to gather on a Sunday morning and look at each other face to face. I look forward to sharing the peace with you all one day soon. Maybe I had been taking to many gifts for granted, and this is my (our) opportunity to be reminded of the precious gift that the Sabbath is when we can share it together.

Pastor Scott Custead

Contribution & Attendance Summary

January 2019

Contributions \$1,845
 Average Weekly Attendance: 22

January 2020

Contributions \$1,527.00
 Average Weekly Attendance: 15

INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY

January 1, 2020 - January 30, 2020

INCOME

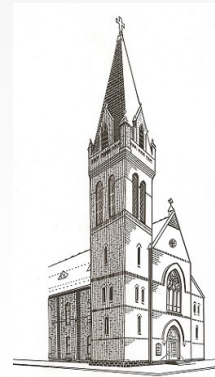
Bank Interest	\$0.00
Contributions	
General	\$1,527.00
Designated	\$.00
Special	\$0.00
Other Income	\$4,000.00
	\$5,527.00

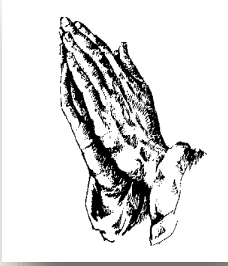
EXPENSES

Pastoral Administration	\$957.79
Worship & Music	\$840.08
Office	\$1,919.98
Custodial & Property	\$3,765.84
Uncategorized	\$.790.34
	\$8,274.03

April Birthdays

Betty Boslet	4/12
Jeffery Boslet	4/27
Judy Dambeck	4/23
Thad Detwiler	4/10
Mark Hoover	4/2
Stephen Lightner	4/20
Pat McConnell	4/5
Ralph Muller	4/24
Eric Wilt	4/6





From the Office of the Bishop....

See Bishop's Letter Page 8

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
 John Wiederkehr



PRAY FOR
 ALL THE
 SICK PEOPLE
 IN THIS
 WORLD





WOMEN
of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

LATEST NEWS

The WELCA Meeting for March 14th was cancelled. It is rescheduled for April 5th (Sunday) following worship.

WELCA Sunday April 19th. Followed by Potluck.



POTLUCK DINNER



WELCA SUNDAY

April 19, 2020

10:45 AM

Members will be participating in the Sunday Service.
Pastor Carol will be providing music with her guitar.

A Potluck Dinner will also be held after service.

Please come and join us for the service and a meal!
Everyone is invited!



Allegheny Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

March 17, 2020

Gracious God, it is good for us to gather as your beloved in community. We treasure your presence with us in word and meal, song and prayer. Be with us in these days when gathering together as often as we would like is not possible. When we must be apart for reasons of safety, we trust that you surround us with your sheltering wings. Encourage us in connecting as we are able, reaching out to our neighbors in need and being persistent in prayer. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our constant companion. Amen. [From Prayers For A Time of Public Health Concern; ELCA]

Beloved in Christ,

In these uncertain days, I want to remind you God is with us. While we may not be gathering together in our church buildings, we can gather our prayers together for all those affected by the Covid-19 virus. I urge you to continue to pray for each other and for your pastor and congregational leaders as they try to make the best decisions possible in an unprecedented situation.

Your congregation may be one of the many in our Synod that runs on a very tight budget. Not holding worship for these next two Sundays could be a severe financial hardship. That is why I am strongly encouraging you to send your tithes and offerings to your congregation even if you cannot be there in person. You may do that electronically if your congregation is set up for online giving or you may mail your donation. Either way you choose to give, your gifts matter. They are important to the ministries of the congregation and the community.

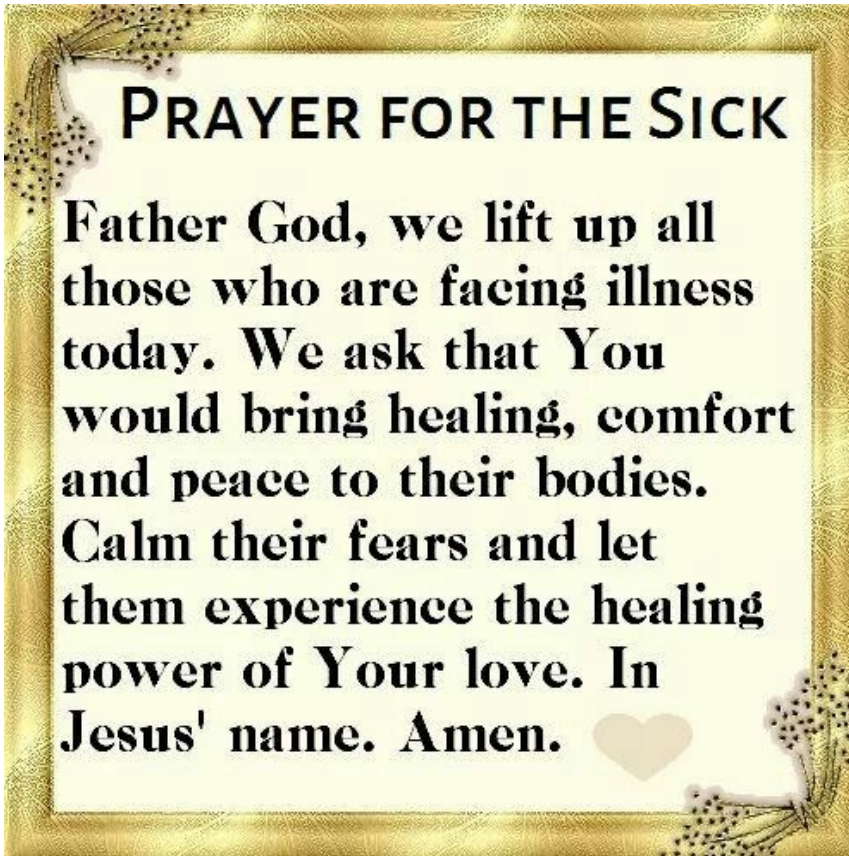
Over and over again in times of distress in our nation we have seen people come together and unite behind the common cause of loving our neighbors. We watched it happen with 9-11, Hurricane Katrina and Sandy, and the shooting at the synagogue in Pittsburgh. In each of those incidences, the church boldly witnessed to the power of Christ's love, grace, and mercy. We have that same opportunity now. Sharing your gift with your congregation allows the love, grace, and mercy of Christ to be shared with those most in need. Your congregation may be able to offer devotions, prayers, or worship experiences via electronic means over the next few weeks or by mail. Please take part as much as you are able and support each other as we move through this crisis.

Thank you for supporting your congregation and its ministry. Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for all the ways you witness to Christ's love in your life. You are making a difference.

May God continue to bless and keep you,

+ Bishop Michael L Rhyne

+Bishop Michael Rhyne



John and Robin Kessler for the new LED lights in the Social Hall! Also, Bob and John Holsinger for helping install them and their two helpers Mike Savino and Bill Wilt.

Apr 1—Matthew 27:33-46, Psalm 18:6-7,16-20

Lord Jesus, the world thought You were a fool, but Your wisdom surpasses all. You give life to all who believe in You. In Your name we pray. Amen

Apr 2—John 15:12-14, Psalm 69:33-36

Lord Jesus, in love, You gave Your all. Give us what we need to give all that we are for You. Amen

Apr 3—Romans 5:6-8, Psalm 22:1-5

O Lord, have mercy. Forgive us for our sin, which made us Your foes. Forgive us for the times we begrudge even the smallest show of love. Guide us to show Your love to all, a love that You showed when You died and rose again for everyone. In Your name we pray. Amen

Apr 4—1 Corinthians 2:9-12, Psalm 78:52-55

Loving God, we know that Your love is immeasurable, and we praise You for all You are. In Your Son's name. Amen

Apr 5—John 12:12-19, Psalm 71:19-24

O King of kings, You came to Jerusalem to defeat sin, death, and the devil. You have overcome, and Your kingdom will never end. In Your name I pray. Amen

Apr 6—John 12:12-15, Psalm 35:1-6,9-10

O Redeemer King, You came to Jerusalem to defeat sin, death, and the devil. You have overcome, and Your kingdom will never end. In Your name I pray. Amen

Apr 7—Mark 11:1-11, Psalm 88:3-9

O Son of David, You come to bring Your kingdom. Fill us with Your Spirit, that Your kingdom comes in us today as we wait for Your. Amen

Apr 8—Philippians 2:5-8, Psalm 89:20-27

Heavenly Father, Your love and mercy are unbelievable to us. Thank You for Your Son's ransom and Your Spirit's life in us. Help us show others the love You give. In Your name I pray. Amen

Apr 9—John 13:1-9, Psalm 22:16-21

O Lord of Love, You command us to love, and You redeemed us to love. Send Your Spirit that we may point others to Your love. Amen

Apr 10—Isaiah 53, Psalm 135:1-4,8-9

Great Physician, You have healed me with Your own wounds. Forgive me for the sin that brought You to the cross. Thank You for the life You give. Amen

Apr 11—1 Corinthians 1:18-25, Psalm 37:1-7

Lord, You conquered death on the deadly tree and won life for us all. Guard us as we await the great celebration. Amen

Apr 12—Job 19:25-27, Psalm 96:1-3,6,11-13

Risen Savior, Alleluia! You have risen from the dead, guaranteeing that I will too. I look forward to seeing You face-to-face. Amen

Apr 13—2 Timothy 1:8-12, Psalm 41

Lord of Life, You conquered death. Alleluia! Thank You for ending the reign of death. Amen

Apr 14—2 Corinthians 3:12-18, Psalm 27

Son of God, we look forward to the day we can see Your face, filled with love and grace for us. Amen

Apr 15—1 John 5:1-5, Psalm 13

Almighty God, give us courage to fight lies and evil boldly as we use weapons like mercy and truth against the foe. We pray in the name of Jesus, who has won the victory. Amen

Apr 16—Romans 8:35-39, Psalm 94:12-19

Lord, You conquered all. Lead me to work Your will until the day You return. Amen

Apr 17—Romans 6:4-11, Psalm 90

Son of God, You were the Son we could not be. But thanks to You, we are now children of God. Thank You for Your love! Amen

Apr 18—Luke 24:4-7, Psalm 30:3-12

Lord of Life, You promised to die and rise for us. You promised to return for us and raise us to life. We trust that what You say is true. Amen

Apr 19—John 20:24-29, Psalm 31:19-24

Lord of Truth, thank You for the faith You have given me to believe without seeing. I look forward to the day when faith becomes sight. Amen

Apr 20—Revelation 5:6-14, Psalm 26:1-3,8-12

Heavenly Father, we await the day when we can all join together and praise You with joy. Amen

Apr 21—Romans 6:9-14, Psalm 99:1-5

Lord of Life, You are the resurrection and the life. You have overcome death for us all! Help us to not fear and instead trust in You. Amen

Apr 22—Revelation 7:9-12, Psalm 103:15-22

Lord of the Church, hear our praises from all corners of creation! Keep us as we tell others of Your glory. Amen

Apr 23—1 Corinthians 15:54-57, Psalm 92:1-9
Redeemer, You have defeated death and robbed it of its sting. We rejoice in You!
Amen

Apr 24—1 Corinthians 15:3-8, Psalm 106:16-23
Spirit of Truth, fill us with the Good News, that we may share it with others. Amen

Apr 25—1 Corinthians 15:17-20, Psalm 94:1-11
Risen Savior, You promised to return for us. Amen! Come, Lord Jesus. Amen

Apr 26—Matthew 28:16-20, Psalm 80:1-7
Holy Spirit, guide me and equip me with all I need to tell the Good News of
salvation to others. Amen

Apr 27—John 20:19-21, Psalm 86:11-17
Prince of Peace, sustain us in You. Amen

Apr 28—John 16:32-33, Psalm 84:1-4
Almighty Lord, You battled against Satan and won, and You give me Your love
and mercy. Thank You for Your peace. Amen

Apr 29—Acts 3:11-21, Psalm 146
Author of life, we deserved to die, but You did instead. Your death killed death,
and now we are alive in You! Keep us in Your care until You return. Amen

Apr 30—Philippians 1:18-21, Psalm 11
Christ, in life, in death, I trust in You. 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 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 MAY ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS,
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15.***

Announcements and Upcoming Events

LENTEN LUNCH SERIES ST JAMES (CANCELLED)	MAR 25TH 12 PM
LENTEN SERIES BETHANY (CANCELLED)	MAR 25TH 6:30PM
CHOIR PRACTICE	MAR 26TH 7 PM
PALM SUNDAY	APR 5TH
MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE	APR 9TH 7 PM
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE	APR 10TH 2 PM
EASTER SUNDAY	APR 12TH
WELCA SUNDAY	APR 19TH
POTLUCK DINNER	APR 19TH 12 PM
ALLEGHENY CHORALE CONCERT	MAY 3RD 3 PM

** Cookies are needed from the congregation for the reception after the concert

PLEASE NOTE, ALL ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT MONTH OR TWO ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.! WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO KEEP YOU INFORMED THROUGH EMAIL, OUR WEBITE, FACEBOOK, AND PHONE CALLS. PLEASE KEEP IN CONTACT WITH YOUR FRIENDS WHO YOU KNOW DO NOT USE SOCIAL MEDIA.

SAVE THE DATE

April 18, 2020

Allegheny Synodical Women's Organization

32nd Annual Convention

Duncansville Evangelical Lutheran Church

Registration Deadline is April 1st

Registration fee \$15

Contact Donna Wilt or Peggy Thatcher

For Registration Forms



SWEETS AND TREATS

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH.

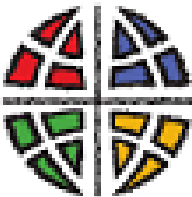
**OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS
WILL BE
APRIL 1ST
SPONSORED BY: JOE YANKE**

* 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:

APRIL 14th 6PM



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



June 14, 2020
 Highland Park, Pavilion #1

11:00 AM Communion Worship Service

12:00 PM Meal

Rokkandy

Pat McConnell's band will play following the meal.

SIGN UP SHEET

**** Paper Plates, and Utensils will be provided****
****Iced Tea, Lemon Aid, and Water will be provided****
****Hamburgers, Hot Dogs and Rolls will be provided****

Name: _____

Plan to attend # _____ Plan to bring # _____

Name: _____

Plan to attend # _____ Plan to bring # _____

Name: _____

Plan to attend # _____ Plan to bring # _____

Name: _____

Plan to attend # _____ Plan to bring # _____

Name: _____

Plan to attend # _____ Plan to bring # _____

Name: _____

Plan to attend # _____ Plan to bring # _____

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