

Kirchenblatt May 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 May 2020



Holy Week and Easter this year were probably the most unique and unusual any of us has ever lived through as we observed these holy days in the midst of Stay-at-Home orders amidst the Covid-19 global pandemic! We will remember these days for a long time, as I believe the whole Christian Church throughout the world will!

Many of our pastors have had to learn how to provide worship services online either live or pre-recorded. Several of our younger colleagues have become quite skilled in this even though I assure you there were no courses in seminary that addressed the situation we are now in! Pastor Scott and I have shared some of those services with you, but to do that ourselves would have been quite a learning curve for us. Plus, we believed that our time could be better spent making phone calls to as many of you as we could reach and check in with you and pray with you over the phone. If you get email, you found that Tim also sent out the bulletin for each Sunday so that at least you could read the lessons, pray the prayers and perhaps sing the liturgy and hymns by yourselves. We hope you have found that to be helpful.

I want to share with you something that someone wrote on Facebook that was shared by one of my long-time friends. I think this sums up the way that I found Easter to be meaningful this year and perhaps, as you reflect back on your Easter, you will find this meaningful also:

PASTOR'S LETTER FOR May 2020



“The very first Easter was not in a crowded worship space with singing and praising. On the very first Easter the disciples were locked in their house. It was dangerous for them to come out. They were afraid. They wanted to believe the good news they heard from the women, that Jesus had risen. But it seemed too good to be true. They were living in a time of such despair and such fear. If they left their homes their lives and the lives of their loved ones might be at risk. Could a miracle really have happened? Could life really have won out over death? Could this time of terror and fear really be coming to an end?

Alone in their homes they dared to believe that hope was possible, that the long night was over and morning had broken, that God’s love was the most powerful of all, even though it didn’t seem quite real yet. Eventually, they were able to leave their homes. When the fear and danger had subsided, they went around celebrating and spreading the good news that Jesus was risen...

This year we might [have gotten] to experience a taste of what that first Easter was like, still in our homes daring to believe that hope is on the horizon. Then, after a while, when it is safe for all people, when it is the most loving choice, we will come out, gathering together, singing the good news that God brings life even out of death, that God’s love always has the final say!”

May God bless you and keep you until we meet again! You are all in our prayers!

Pastor Carol

Contribution & Attendance Summary

February 2019

Contributions \$2,314.00
 Average Weekly Attendance: 23

February 2020

Contributions \$1,714.00
 Average Weekly Attendance: 15

INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY

February 1, 2020 - February 29, 2020

INCOME

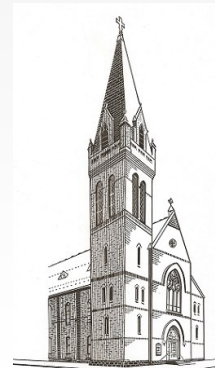
Bank Interest	\$.04.
Contributions	
General	\$1,714.00
Designated	\$
Special	\$
Other Income	\$14,808.00
	<hr/>
	\$15,722.12

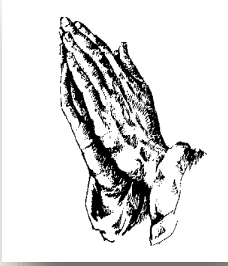
EXPENSES

Pastoral Administration	\$1,219.29
Worship & Music	\$677.38
Office	\$1,107.67
Custodial & Property	\$10,644.39
Uncategorized	\$.553.94
	<hr/>
	\$14,202.67

May Birthdays

Donna Foster	5/22
Betsy Manbeck	5/14
Michael Savino Jr	5/29
Andrea Svidergol	5/16
Donna Wilt	5/24
Ethan Wilt	5/1





From the Office of the Bishop....

See Bishop's Letter Page 6-7

Remember In Your Prayers

Our Prayer List:

(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.)

Tim Surkovich
 Joe Yanke
 Patti Green
 Jean Bickel
 Judy Dambeck

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



Allegheny Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



God's work. Our hands.

701 Quail Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602 • 814-942-1042 • 814-941-9259 fax • office@alleghenysynod.com

Bishop Michael L. Rhyne

April 17, 2020

A Message from the Allegheny Synod Staff:

Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!
Grace to you and peace from the risen Christ!

Saint Teresa of Avila said, "Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."

Friends, everything we are experiencing in this pandemic is new. There is no instruction manual for what to do in a situation like this. What has given me and the staff hope are the ways in which you are living out Saint Teresa's quote. You are being Christ's risen body in the world through the masks you are making, the food you are donating, the time you are giving, and the connections you are making through phone calls, emails, and texts and social media. The Holy Spirit is using you to share the love and light of Christ with those around you. We thank God for you and for the ways you are demonstrating what it means to be the church. Everything you are doing is a powerful witness to the risen Christ to an anxious and hurting world.

While this year's observance of Holy Week and celebration of Easter was not what we hoped for, we are continually reminded that we are not alone. We are the body of Christ. We are in this together.

I hope you will join me in giving thanks to God for the heroic efforts of our hospital workers, grocery store employees, truck drivers, first responders, postal carriers, and a host of other people who are helping us to sustain us in these uncertain times. We know you will join us in continuing to pray for those who take care of our congregations our pastors, deacons, and lay worship leaders.

The days can be long and frustrating. Do not lose hope. Now, more than ever, it is important to remember who and whose we are. Jesus called and claimed you in the waters of baptism. His resurrected life lives in you. Even though we cannot be together physically, we can be of one heart and mind as we pray for strength and courage to meet each day and be thankful for the moments of joy that break in to our lives in ordinary ways.

We also invite you to use this time to turn and return to God. These weeks of waiting offer ample opportunity to pray, to read Holy Scripture, and to take time to rest in the presence of our God who is with us always. Christ is always right beside us. He is welcoming us to turn to him. Please use these moments to pray for our world, to pray for our neighbors, and to be reminded of the presence of Jesus Christ.

May the peace and presence of Christ be made real to you this day and always.

Living in the hope of the risen Christ,

The Allegheny Synod Staff,

Bishop Michael, Pastor Becca, Pastor Paula and Michelle.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Financial Column

Contact: Andrea K. Paul
E-mail: andrea.paul@thrivent.com
Phone: (814)-695-3496

TIME FOR A FINANCIAL CHECKUP!

A CHANGING LIFE LEADS TO CHANGING FINANCES - MAKE SURE YOU'RE UP-TO-DATE

For most of us, checkups are a regular part of life. Dental visits, auto maintenance appointments and even glances in the bathroom mirror all help us monitor performance, catch potential problems and assure us that all is – or will be – well.

What's true of teeth, engines and grooming is also true of finances: regular checkups are recommended. Why? Changes both great and small affect the strategies people have developed to help achieve their financial goals. Unfortunately, too many people act as though once their financial strategy is in place their work is done. But this isn't the case.

As a general rule, Thrivent Financial recommends you review your financial strategy at least once each year. Certain life changes – the birth or adoption of a child, a change in marital status (married, divorced or widowed), the death of a family member or changes to your health – should serve as reminders that a financial tune-up is in order.

Other changes in personal economics can also have a huge impact on finances. These may include shifts in employment status or salary (e.g. loss of job or a pay cut/freeze), home ownership changes, significant changes in total assets or debt, the receipt of an inheritance and tax law changes that can all make previous strategies obsolete.

If you have a do-it-yourself mentality, a number of print and electronic resources exist to help you monitor your finances on a regular basis. However, most can benefit from the knowledge, experience and insight that financial professionals can offer.

Qualified financial professionals can help people evaluate their present financial strategies and stay current on new laws, regulations, products and economic developments. Even more important, financial professionals can challenge the unrealistic assumptions that people may have and help them overcome money management's greatest threat: procrastination.

To live is to experience change. How and when change will appear is impossible to predict, but a financial checkup is one sure way to help you protect your assets and be prepared for the unexpected.

This article was prepared by Thrivent Financial for use by Andrea K. Paul. She has offices at 412 Allegheny Street, Suite 103 in Hollidaysburg and can also be reached at (814)-695-3496.

About Thrivent

Thrivent is a not-for-profit financial services organization that helps Christians be wise with money. As a mission-driven, membership-owned organization, it offers its more than 2 million members and customers a broad range of financial products, services and guidance to help them obtain a life of contentment, confidence and generosity. Thrivent and its subsidiary and affiliate companies offer insurance, investments, banking and advice over the phone, online as well as through financial professionals and independent agents nationwide. Thrivent is a FORTUNE 500 company with \$134 billion in assets under management/advisement (as of 12/31/18). For more than a century it has helped Christians make wise money choices that reflect their values while providing them opportunities to demonstrate their generosity where they live, work and worship. For more information, visit [Thrivent.com](https://www.thrivent.com). You can also find us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/thrivent) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/thrivent).

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Thrivent and its financial professionals do not provide legal, accounting or tax advice. Consult your attorney or tax professional.

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May 1—Luke 24:45-53, Psalm 1

Worthy are You, almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, to receive honor, glory, and praise. In Jesus' name. Amen

May 2—1 John 1:5-10, Psalm 53

Lord, I have sinned against You. For Jesus' sake, forgive me. Amen

May 3—Psalm 103:1-12, Psalm 116:1-7

Heavenly Father, thank You so much for forgiving me. In Jesus' name. Amen

May 4—Psalm 122, Psalm 125

Lord, prepare our hearts to hear Your Word. Give us joy in Your presence as we lift our eyes to You. Alleluia! Amen

May 5—Mark 10:46-52, Psalm 80

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy upon us. Amen

May 6—Luke 2:8-12, Psalm 19:1-6

Glory to God in the highest! We can be at peace with You, Father, through Jesus, our Savior. Amen

May 7—Joshua 24:14-18, Psalm 111

Heavenly Father, send Your Spirit to help us be faithful to Your Word throughout our lives. In Jesus' name. Amen

May 8—Revelation 5:11-14, Psalm 108

Lord Jesus, worthy are You to receive honor and praise. Help me live my life to Your glory. Amen

May 9—Acts 4:23-31, Psalm 89:1-9, 46-52

Almighty and glorious Lord, thank You for the gift of prayer. In Jesus' powerful name. Amen!

May 10—2 Timothy 1:1-7, Psalm 71:14-18

Lord, help us to be godly parents and grandparents. May our example lead our children to see You more clearly. Amen

May 11—1 Peter 2:19-25, Psalm 119:25-29

Lord, help my faith to always be growing as I listen to Your Word. Amen

May 12—John 10:1-10, Psalm 119:9-16

Speak, Lord; Your servant is listening. Amen

May 13—Matthew 7:24-29, Psalm 119:41-48

Lord Jesus, help us not only to hear Your Word but also to build our lives upon You. Bless all pastors as they search the Scriptures and teach us Your Word. Amen

May 14—Colossians 1:15-20, Psalm 119:169-176

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, help me give a clear witness of You. Amen

May 15—John 14:1-14, Psalm 85

Almighty God, hear our prayers and grant us peace. In Jesus' name. Amen

May 16—Psalm 139, Psalm 70

Heavenly Father, watch over all those serving in the armed forces. Let them feel Your presence even in difficult times. Amen

May 17—Matthew 6:19-33, Psalm 54

Heavenly Father, You have richly blessed us through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Accept our offerings and use them to Your glory. Amen

May 18—Deuteronomy 30:1-10, Psalm 24

Lord God, protect our nation from harm and help us as a people to seek Your will in our lives. In Jesus' name. Amen

May 19—Psalm 116:12-19, Psalm 114

Give me a grateful heart, O Lord, and let me daily sing Your praises. Amen

May 20—John 14:15-21, Psalm 136:1-3

Lord, we lift up our hearts to You, and give You thanks and praise for all Your great mercy to us. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

May 21—Acts 1:6-11, Psalm 130

Lord Jesus, help us to keep our eyes focused on You and Your will for us, so that we can be ready when You return. Amen

May 22—Isaiah 6:1-7, Psalm 48

Almighty, everlasting God, I praise you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen

May 23—John 17:1-11, Psalm 106:1-5

Lord Jesus, as You glorified Your Father through Your life, death, and resurrection, grant that we also give Him glory in all that we do. Amen

May 24—1 Corinthians 11:17-26, Psalm 73:21-28

Lord Jesus, be present with us now and forgive us our sins. Amen

May 25—Joshua 4:1-7, Psalm 77:11-15

Risen Savior, we thank You for rising again for us. Grant our country peace.
Amen

May 26—Matthew 6:9-13, Psalm 65

Lord Jesus, teach us to pray. Amen

May 27—Isaiah 53:1-7, Psalm 143

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, have mercy upon us and hear our prayers. Wash us clean from our sins and grant us life and salvation. Amen

May 28—Luke 2:22-34, Psalm 118:1-14

Lord Jesus, we have seen Your salvation, prepared for our forgiveness. We rejoice in Your presence. Amen

May 29—Numbers 6:22-27, Psalm 28:1-2

Lord, keep us in Your sight, and never let go. Amen

May 30—Colossians 3:12-17, Psalm 98

Father, thank You for the gift of song. Help me lift my voice to you in praise. In Jesus' name. Amen

May 31—Acts 2:1-14, 40-41, Psalm 97

Holy Spirit, fill us with zeal to share the Good News about Jesus with everyone
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 JUNE ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS,
FRIDAY, MAY 15.***

Announcements and Upcoming Events

BULLETIN DEADLINE	APR 28TH 10:30 AM
SWEETS AND TREATS	MAY 3RD 10 AM
ALLEGHENY CHORALE CONCERT (CANCELLED)	MAY 3RD
BULLETIN DEADLINE	MAY 5TH 10:30 AM
WELCA MEETING	MAY 9TH 10 AM
BULLETIN DEADLINE	MAY 12TH 10:30 AM
COUNCIL MEETING	MAY 12TH 6 PM
KIRCHENBLATT ARTICLE DEADLINE	MAY 15TH 12 PM
BULLETIN DEADLINE	MAY 19TH 10:30 AM
BULLETIN DEADLINE	MAY 26TH 10:30 AM
CHURCH PICNIC	JUN 14TH 11 AM

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.





SWEETS AND TREATS

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH.

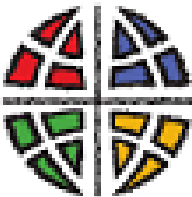
**OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS
WILL BE MAY 3RD**

* 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:

May 12th 6PM



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

In our hearts and memories of our dear sister, mother and grandmother MARLENE LEONARDS'S birthday April 21st.

In Remembrance



*Sadly missed by Donna Wilt and family
David Leonard, Brian and Tracy, Tara and
Matthew Leonard*

Fellowship, food & fun

CHURCH

Picnic



Planning for the church picnic has begun. You can use the sign up sheet on the stand in the narthex or on the foyer bulletin board. Or use the sheet on the next page.

Church Picnic will be held June 14, 2020 at Highland Park, Pavilion #1



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