



Kirchenblatt November 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
November 2020**

KIRCHENBLATT



I just finished reading a novel in which one of the characters quotes a prayer that his grandmother taught him. “I thank you Lord for everything, just the way it is.” At some times in our life that is an easy prayer to say. At other times it is not so easy. However, the character’s grandmother meant for him to pray it all times.

I’m not finding this an easy time to make that prayer the expression of my heart. The pandemic. The political and social fracture in our country. Neighbors and family members dividing themselves while flashing “black lives matter” and “thin blue line flags” at each other. Added to that is a variety of health issues I am facing. I am spending the week in physical therapy, wearing a heart monitor, doing ultra sounds and echo cardiograms.

It would be nice to have some pleasant distractions, but those are basically off the table. We had a big trip planned to Ethiopia that should be happening now, but that, of course, is postponed to perhaps next fall. I’m staying clear of the gym and the coffee shop that in normal times provide me a nice diversion. We won’t even be going to see our daughter and son-in-law in Marquette for Thanksgiving.

I thank you Lord for everything, just the way it is.”? Yes, it could be worse, and it might well get there.

**PASTOR'S LETTER FOR
November 2020**

KIRCHENBLATT



Did grandma really expect the character in the novel, and me and you, to pray that prayer even today? Yes, she did. Life is a gift, but it is only a gift that can be opened with gratitude. I could allow, I am tempted to allow, the trials of the moment to cloud out the outrageous undeserved unexplainable fact that life exists for me at all.

The Buddhists teach a principle they call “nonreactivity”. The idea is to accept the moment as it is, rather than wishing it was something else. Maybe that is what is needed this Thanksgiving. Maybe my prayer will be something like, “Lord, I wish this was the case or that was the case, but it is not. So Lord, I simply pray thank you, Lord, for everything just the way it is.”

Pastor Scott Custead



"PRAY ^{for all} people... GIVE THANKS.
 YOU SHOULD PRAY for rulers
 & ^{FOR} those who have authority.
 PRAY FOR THESE LEADERS so that we can LIVE
 in PEACE. (This is the way our Savior wants us to live.)"

- 1st Timothy 2:1-2



Christmas Poinsettias

Bless our Sanctuary and your home this Christmas with a beautiful red poinsettia! For each \$7.75 you contribute to the St. James Flower Fund, a flower will be placed in the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve and will be available for you to take with you following our Christmas Eve Service. If you would rather donate the flower for a shut-in or friend of St. James, you may indicate that choice on this order form.

Please complete the form and return it to the church. **The deadline for poinsettia orders and payments is Sunday, November 29, 2020.** Thank you for your generosity in this endeavor!

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

This donation is made:

In Honor of: _____

Or

In Memory of: _____

Amount of Contribution: _____

Number of Christmas Poinsettias: _____

Envelope Number: _____

Please check one:

_____ Yes, I do want to take the poinsettia (s) home with me.

_____ No. I don't want to take the poinsettia (s). I would like them to be given to a shut in or friend of St. James

Contribution & Attendance Summary

August 2019

Contributions \$1,778.00
Average Weekly Attendance: 20

August 2020

Contributions \$1,721.00
Average Weekly Attendance: 15

INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY

August 1, 2020 - August 31, 2020

INCOME

Bank Interest	\$0.00
Contributions	
General	\$1,721.00
Designated	\$.00
Special	\$0.00
Other Income	\$4,248.66
	<hr/>
	\$5,969.66

EXPENSES

Pastoral Administration	\$3,063.41
Worship & Music	\$525.08
Office	\$1,165.76
Custodial & Property	\$714.62
Uncategorized	\$496.68
	<hr/>
	\$5,965.55



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.)

Carol Weaver, Edith Trinks, Tim Surkovich

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

Nov 1—Hebrews 11:1-16, Psalm 96

Blessed Savior, having set me by grace on the road, by grace see me safely home.

Amen

Nov 2—Numbers 6:22-27, Psalm 54

“O God, save me by Your name, and vindicate me by Your might.” In Jesus’ name.

Amen (Psalm 54:1)

Nov 3—Hebrews 10:19-25, Psalm 84

Father, by the blood of Jesus, we have confidence to enter that place where You may be found. Grant us strength and grace for the journey. In Jesus’ name. Amen

Nov 4—Genesis 49:1-28, Psalm 115

O blessed Trinity, thank You for the gift of family and friends. Grant me grace and strength to cherish others and to bless those You put into my life. In Jesus’ name. Amen

Nov 5—Ephesians 2:11-22, Psalm 4

Forgiving Savior, having established peace with me, lead me now to be a person of peace. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen

Nov 6—2 Samuel 12:1-15, Psalm 51

Precious Jesus, by Your forgiveness, create in me a clean heart and put a new and right spirit in me. Amen

Nov 7—2 Kings 5, Psalm 145

You provide for all of our needs, O Lord. Lead us to render thanks for all of Your gifts and to respond in kind by living lives worthy of our calling in Christ. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen

Nov 8—1 Peter 4:1-11, Psalm 141

Sweet Jesus, give me such outward focused orbs as You own, that I may behold all in high esteem. Amen

Nov 9—Philippians 4:10-20, Psalm 119:33-40

Gracious Father, lead me to a life of being content, a life that flows freely from Your great grace and provision, through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen

Nov 10—John 1:1-18, Psalm 119:73-80

Lord, in my sin, You came to save. Lord, in my salvation, I now rejoice to live.

Amen

Nov 11—2 Corinthians 3:1-11, Psalm 19

As we give thanks today for those who serve us, O Lord, lead us all to be letters of Your unfathomable love. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen

Nov 12—Romans 8:18-25, Psalm 104:24-35

Dear Father, as a creation and I at times groan, thank You that our redemption in Christ still stands. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Nov 13—Romans 8:31-39, Psalm 146

Blessed Savior, thank You for bringing me to Yourself and to life in Your name. Amen

Nov 14—1 Corinthians 12:1-11, Psalm 116

Blessed Holy Spirit, fill me with Your fire to confess and burn brightly for You. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen

Nov 15—Romans 12:1-8, Psalm 133-134

Jesus, thank You for my sisters and brothers in Christ. In them, I am sincerely blessed. Amen

Nov 16—2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2, Psalm 103:1-14

Reconciled to You, O Lord, inspire in me a life of reconciliation toward others. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen

Nov 17—John 11:17-27, Psalm 16

Precious Savior, as You have seen my loved ones safely home, I rejoice to know that You will see me there also. Accompany us all along the way. Amen

Nov 18—Matthew 26:36-44, Psalm 18:1-19

Thank You, Father, for the gift of prayer. Grant that I may accept Your answer. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen

Nov 19—Isaiah 55, Psalm 34

My Father, who is in heaven, thank You for hearing me for Jesus' sake, and answering when I call. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen

Nov 20—Luke 6:12-19, Psalm 8

Jesus, grant us a kingdom view, equipping us with Your gifts and sending us forth in Your name. Amen

Nov 21—John 6:22-35, Psalm 111

Father, thank You for the bounty in my life, and for all it takes to get it to my table. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen

Nov 22—Isaiah 1:12-20, Psalm 14

Jesus, thank You for a crimson love that covers me and makes me new. Amen

Nov 23—2 Corinthians 12:1-10, Psalm 143

In my afflictions, Lord, hold me fast. In the hour of trial, let grace fall on me. In Jesus' name. Amen

Nov 24—Mark 10:35-45, Psalm 63
Precious Savior, thank You for entering time, all to redeem me for eternity. Amen

Nov 25—Romans 6:1-11, Psalm 65
Loving Savior, thank You for the day You called me to Yourself. I rejoice to be Yours in faith. Amen

Nov 26—Deuteronomy 8:1-10, Psalm 147
Blessed Savior, receive our thanks for all of Your gifts. We are truly in awe of Your presence. Amen

Nov 27—1 John 1:5-2:2, Psalm 32
Jesus, thank You for Your forgiving Word, anytime or anywhere I may hear it. Amen

Nov 28—Romans 5:1-11, Psalm 30
A little is enough, O Lord—one word of grace, one drop of Your bloody love. Thank You, Jesus; thank You. Amen

Nov 29—Genesis 9:1-17, Psalm 90
Jesus, it's a new season. Bless my waiting, watching, and working for You. Amen

Nov 30—Romans 10:8-18, Psalm 148
Precious Savior, You died for me. Help me to live for You. Amen

Worship will happen on Sundays at 10:45 AM, following the guidelines in recognition of the continuing coronavirus pandemic. All other activities and events are cancelled until further notice.

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.

***DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT
IS, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15.***

Announcements and Upcoming Events

DECORATE CHURCH

** No Pizza, Wear Masks, Social Distancing*

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

** COVID-19 Guidelines*

UN-DECORATE THE CHURCH

** No Pizza, Wear Masks, Social Distancing*

DEC 5TH 9:30 AM

DEC 24TH 7:30 PM

JAN 9TH 10 AM

**OTHERS WEAR A
FACE COVERING
TO PROTECT YOU.**



**PLEASE
WEAR YOUR
FACE COVERING
TO PROTECT
OTHERS.**



Peggy L. Webb - August 6, 1940 to October 14, 2020

Peggy entered into eternal rest on October 14, 2020 in Florida. Peggy was a member of St James Lutheran Church for many decades and more recently a member of Hope Lutheran in The Villages. She served St. James secretary for 20 years. Arrangements are by Myers-Somers Funeral Home Inc. and memorial services will be held in the spring in both The Villages, Fl. and Altoona.

Peggy's obituary was in the Altoona Mirror on October 20th and 21st. for more info.

Our sympathy to her family and friends.



*Shirley Manbeck, would like to thank the
St. James family for all your thoughts,
prayers, and cards.*

*God Bless and Thank You to all of you!
Stay Safe!*

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

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