



**St. James Evangelical
Lutheran Church
November 8, 2020
23rd Sunday after
Pentecost**

**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: Prelude in G Lani Smith
(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 holy 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

Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand

1 Oh, hap - py day when we shall stand a - mid the
4 O Lord, your grace is ev - 'ry - thing; your love has

heav'n - ly throng; and sing with hosts from ev - 'ry land the
made us free to stand a - mong the saints and sing the

new ce - les - tial song, the new ce - les - tial song.
glo - ry that we see, the glo - ry that we see.

Text: Wilhelm A. Wexels, 1797–1866; tr. composite

Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561

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*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 Spoken:

In peace, let us pray to the Lord

Lord, have mercy

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

Lord, have mercy.

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 pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen, amen.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

We Listen to the Word

First Reading:

Amos 5:18-24

A reading from Amos.

¹⁸Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is darkness, not light; ¹⁹as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. ²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? ²¹I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. ²³Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. ²⁴But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

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¹Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; O LORD, make haste to help me.

²**Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded; let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.**

³Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat over me turn back because of their shame.

⁴**Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; let those who love your salvation say forever, “Great is the LORD!”**

⁵But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God. You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

Second Reading:**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

A reading from Thessalonians.

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

***GOSPEL:**

Matthew 25:1-13

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

***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

*Offering Prayer:

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with the gifts we have offered. 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.

A: 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

SOLO:

“Taps”

Bob Hench

*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: Wake, Awake for Night is Flying
(*next page*)

ELW 436

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

*Postlude: Trumpet Tune

G. M. Martin

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men
3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and

on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.
an - gels sing be - fore - you, with harp and cym - bal's clear - est tone.

Mid - night hears the wel - come voice - es, and at the
Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to

thrill - ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid - ens! Night is past.
bliss be - yond all dream - ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.

The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"
No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun - d'ring might

Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;
of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!

go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.
There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. composite
Music: WÄCHT AUF, Philipp Nicolai

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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 or ccustead@atlanticbb.net**

The church office email is stjamesaltoona@gmail.com The church's
website is 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.******

Announcements and Upcoming Events

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.

Our Prayer List:

Tim Surkovich

Carol Weaver

Edith Trinks

(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

Homewood

Sylvia Malsatzki

Allegheny Lutheran Home:

Janet Kauffman

In their own homes:

Deborah Manbeck

John Wiederkehr



As we worship during this ongoing Covid19 pandemic, please remember these things to help keep us all as safe as possible:

- Wear a face mask, and keep the 6 foot social distance and refrain from shaking hands.
- Sit in the pews marked with the blue tape.
- Leave your bulletin where you have been sitting in order to help the janitor to know where to disinfect.
- The offering plate is in the back. Please leave your offering there. The ushers will not be collecting it.
- We will not be sharing the peace with each other during the service.
- Thank you for your patience and understanding.

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



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

Announcements and Upcoming Events

WELCA DOOR DECORATION DEADLINE

POINSETTIA ORDER DEADLINE

DECORATE CHURCH

*** No Pizza, Wear Masks, Social Distancing**

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

*** COVID-19 Guidelines**

UN-DECORATE THE CHURCH

*** No Pizza, Wear Masks, Social Distancing**

NOV 22ND 12 PM

NOV 29TH 12 PM

DEC 5TH 9:30 AM

DEC 24TH 7:30 PM

JAN 9TH 10 AM





St. James WELCA women are at it again!

It will soon be the holiday season and time to think of the folks in the Allegheny Lutheran Home. Many of these residents feel overlooked and forgotten. Many have family, friends and relatives who can not visit due to COVID regulations. Furthermore, many will have no one to bring them holiday blessings. We have all seen photos and videos of families and friends with tears running down their cheeks as they and their loved ones touch palms through thick glass. How do we not cry for them? They get no hugs or kisses, no contact for months on end.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Now is the time for the St. James family to think of those in the Lutheran Home. It may be one of us some day.

WELCA is asking for you to bring a small door decoration. It's not the price of the item, it's the thought that goes into selecting this small gift. There are many door decorations available at your local Dollar Store.

This gift giving project has been arranged by St. James WELCA and the Lutheran Home Activities Coordinator. It is also a Thrivent Helping Hands Project.

REMINDER: ALL DOOR DECORATIONS SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE CHURCH **NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 22. THIS WILL ENABLE THE STAFF AT THE LUTHERAN HOME TO DECORATE RESIDENT DOORS FOR THE UPCOMING HOLIDAY SEASON.**





" **PRAY** *for all* **GIVE**
people... **THANKS.**
YOU SHOULD **PRAY** *for* **rulers**
& **FOR** *those* *who* **authority.**
have

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

*St. James Evangelical
Lutheran Church*

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**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.