



Kirchenblatt December 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 December 2020



As I write this on November 22, 2020, it is a day of celebration for our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Today is the 50th Anniversary of the ordination of Rev. Elizabeth Platz, the first woman to become a pastor in the Lutheran Church in America, on November 22, 1970! I remember that event vividly. I had just graduated from high school in June of that year. The ordination of women was approved by the Church wide Convention the week after I graduated, and my pastor was a delegate. The next Sunday I was serving as a Communion Assistant and I had robed and was waiting with him in the back for the procession. He told me that our Lutheran Church in America had just voted to ordain women and he thought I should consider becoming a pastor! My first thought was, "No way! I can't even envision a woman wearing a clergy collar or stole!" But then in November the Lutheran Magazine had a photo of Pastor Platz on the cover, wearing her collar, alb, and stole. That was how my discernment of the call began.

Over the next 7 years I pondered if God was calling me to pastoral ministry. I prayed about it, I majored in religion at a Lutheran College and spoke with all the religion professors about it, and I served as a camp counselor at a Lutheran Church Camp in the summers and spoke with all the chaplains about it. One of those chaplains then offered me a job as the Director of Youth Ministry at his large congregation in Burnsville, Minnesota after I graduated from college. For the next three years he gave me many opportunities to experience the things that a pastor does. After that I knew it was my calling and I went to seminary. I was ordained in June of 1981. And today you know me as Pastor Carol.

PASTOR'S LETTER FOR December 2020



So it is with joy that I now encourage you to watch our Allegheny Synod's digital worship service celebration of this 50th Anniversary of the ordination of women in our Lutheran Church. We watched this last Friday evening and it is very inspiring! Pastor Judith Simonson's sermon is excellent and perfect for the celebration! She was ordained a year before me. I have a part in the service too, along with Pastor Kevin Shock who was one of my confirmands at Zion and who worked there for 3 years as my youth ministry assistant as we mentored him in his discernment of the call to become a pastor! And our son, Ryan, did the filming, editing, and arrangement of the video!

The Allegheny Synod's Facebook page has posted it and says this:

"For All The Faithful Women" (A Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women in the ELCA). Join us as we worship across the Allegheny Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Video also available on YouTube here: <https://youtu.be/6dTWEgXr-o>

The text of the service is onscreen for your convenience."

I have also shared it on the St. James Facebook page and my own.

Many blessings,

-Pastor Carol

Dear St. James members,

The church council met by Zoom on Tuesday evening and decided unanimously to cancel in-person worship services at least through December 13th. Council took this action due to the spike in Covid-19 infections and deaths in our county, and based on the recommendation of our Bishop and Synod Council. Bishop Rhyne, in consultation with Synod Council, will be making a further recommendation for the rest of December and Christmas Eve depending on what infection rates do as we move forward. Our church council decided to follow that recommendation when it is made.

We will be sharing virtual worship services on our St. James Facebook page for you to watch. St. Luke's Episcopal Church is filming their worship from their sanctuary and posting it on their Facebook page, and Zion Lutheran Church-Hollidaysburg also posts a service each week. So you can watch for those.

Tim will email our bulletin to you each week as well, so you can pray through the service that way too. And we will attempt to phone call you each Sunday as we did last spring. Again, this is a difficult time we are going through, but know that God is with you.

We will be keeping you in prayer.

-Pastors Carol and Scott

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.



Contribution & Attendance Summary

September 2019

Contributions \$ 2,050.31

Average Weekly Attendance: 22

September 2020

Contributions \$ 1,439.00

Average Weekly Attendance: 15

INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY

September 1, 2020 - September 30, 2020

INCOME

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| Bank Interest | \$0.03 |
| Contributions | |
| General | \$1,439.00 |
| Designated | \$.00 |
| Special | \$0.00 |
| Other Income | \$4000.00 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$5,439.03 |

EXPENSES

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Pastoral Administration | \$2,117.97 |
| Worship & Music | \$525.08 |
| Office | \$1,113.47 |
| Custodial & Property | \$825.96 |
| Uncategorized | \$1,329.40 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$5,911.88 |



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

Dec 1—Genesis 3, Psalm 32:1-2

We thank You, heavenly Father, for Your faithfulness as we await Your Son's second coming. In Jesus' name. Amen

Dec 2—Revelations 21:1-4, Psalm 27:4-14

Dear Father, strengthen our faith as we await the glories of heaven In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Dec 3—Matthew 21:1-11, Psalm 65:9-13

Thank You, dear Jesus, for the abundant blessings You shower upon our lives each day. Amen

Dec 4—Hebrews 11:17-40, Psalm 31:23-24

Dear Father in heaven, we thank You for the faithful cloud of witness who have gone before us. Keep us faithful as well. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Dec 5—Philippians 2:5-11, Psalm 46:1,5

Dear heavenly Father, may we always see Your guiding hand at work in our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Dec 6—Matthew 24:42-44, Psalm 103:3-5

O Lord Jesus, may my eyes be focused on You throughout the days of my earthly walk. Amen

Dec 7—Jeremiah 17:5-8, Psalm 103:15-19

Dear heavenly Father, may we always be connected to the life-giving vine of Your Son, Jesus Christ. In His name we pray. Amen

Dec 8—Mark 5:21-43, Psalm 64:9-10

Heavenly Father, help us to bring the good news of Your love and peace to our family and friends. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Dec 9—Matthew 5:14-16, Psalm 119:105

Light of the world, shine Your brightness into our lives, that we may be bright beacons of light to a world living in darkness. Amen

Dec 10—1 Corinthians 12:12-31, Psalm 133

Thank You, O Lord, for the gifts and talents of each member of the Body of Christ. In Jesus' name. Amen

Dec 11—Exodus 15:1-21, Psalm 95:1-6

Thank You, heavenly Father, for the gift of music. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Dec 12—Romans 3:22-26, Psalm 121

Dearest Jesus, we thank You for Your blood-bought gift of redemption. Amen

Dec 13—Luke 2:1-20, Psalm 77:10-15

Thank You, Father, for writing my story according to Your infallible wisdom. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen

Dec 14—Hebrews 1:14, Psalm 29

O Lord Jesus, may our words and actions always point people to You, the source of their eternal salvation. Amen

Dec 15—Genesis 15:1-6, Psalm 40

O Lord Jesus, we thank You for the signs of Your faithfulness in our lives each day. Amen

Dec 16—Genesis 21:1-7, Psalm 92

Thank You, O Lord, for the blessings You shower upon us in unexpected ways. In Your Son's name we pray. Amen

Dec 17—John 1:29-34, Psalm 16:8-11

O Holy Spirit, fill us with the words to say to prepare others for Jesus' second coming. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Dec 18—Joshua 10:6-15, Psalm 115:9-13

Dear Father, thank You for always knowing what is best for us according to Your plan for our lives. In Jesus' name. Amen

Dec 19—Proverbs 3:5-6, Psalm 20

Dear heavenly Father, please shape our will to follow Your will. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Dec 20—Matthew 27:45-54, Psalm 138

Lord, I ask You to graciously fulfill Your purposes for my life today and every day. In Jesus' name. Amen

Dec 21—Romans 8:28, Psalm 24:7-10

Dear Jesus, may our hearts always be open for You to come and dwell within us. Amen

Dec 22—Isaiah 9:2, Psalm 19:1

Dearest Jesus, thank You for shining the light of Your eternal grace into our lives. Amen

Dec 23—Acts 4:1-22, Psalm 145:1-9

Fill me, Lord, with Your Holy Spirit, that I may tell others I have been with Jesus. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Dec 24—John 20:24-31, Psalm 145:10-21

Thank You, Jesus, for the gift of faith that we may have life in Your name. Amen

Dec 25—Matthew 28:1-10, Psalm 118:21-29

Thank You, Jesus, for coming to earth that we may be assured of going to heaven. Amen

Dec 26—Luke 4:14-21, Psalm 72:12-19

Thank You, Jesus, for being the gift that keeps on giving. Amen

Dec 27—Philippians 4:10-20, Psalm 132:13-15

Thank You, O Lord Jesus, for Your abundant blessings in our lives. Amen

Dec 28—2 Corinthians 1:3-5, Psalm 147:1-6

I thank You, Jesus, for healing my brokenness and ask that You help me to bring Your comfort to others. Amen

Dec 29—Philippians 4:4-7, Psalm 55:22

Thank You, dear Jesus, for setting me free from all that keeps me from enjoying the abundant life You have for me. Amen

Dec 30—1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Psalm 23:4

O Comforter of all, please bring Your peace to my aching heart as well as to the hearts of those whom I love. Amen

Dec 31—Ephesians 3:14-19, Psalm 37:3-5

O eternal Father, thank You for the blessings of the year past. We ask You to be our guide in the year to come. In Jesus' name. 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 JANUARY ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS, TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 15.***

Announcements and Upcoming Events

DECORATE CHURCH (CANCELLED)

** No Pizza, Wear Masks, Social Distancing*

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

** COVID-19 Guidelines (TENTATIVE!)*

UN-DECORATE THE CHURCH (CANCELLED)

** No Pizza, Wear Masks, Social Distancing*

DEC 5TH 9:30 AM

DEC 24TH 7:30 PM

JAN 9TH 10 AM





For
unto
you is
born this
day in the
City of David,
a Saviour, which
is Christ the Lord

Luke 2:11

Merry
Christmas



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