



Kirchenblatt March 2021

(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 Marh 2021



KIRCHENBLATT



Our son and his family are all home in quarantine with Covid. The three boys have bounced right back, but Mom and Dad are feeling really low. Having three full energy boys confined to the house while the parents are sick is not an easy affair, and, of course, no one can come over and lend a hand.

Meanwhile Pastor Carol and I are sitting at home. We also are feeling pretty sick. We hope it is only a cold, but we were around the two and three year olds last week. We take them to and from preschool four days a week, then feed them lunch, and have them nap in our home. This means we were most likely exposed to the virus. We have gone to get tested, but have not received the results yet.

It is ironic to have gone a whole year without getting Covid and then to be exposed the same week we received the first dose of the Moderna vaccine. Our housing development is classified as a senior living facility, so a pharmacy came into our community room and vaccinated everybody. Turns out this is the same week our son's family gets sick. It certainly illustrates that you don't get to control life. You do not get write the script.

Sometimes life can go out of control in some scary ways. Our neighbor who lives two doors down died of Covid last week, and her husband is still sick and hospitalized. It would be nice to have a miracle, so that this would all go away. I will even pray for that, but I am too much of a realist to expect any sudden rainbows and angel choirs. Maybe I lack faith?

PASTOR'S LETTER FOR March 2021



KIRCHENBLATT



I guess I don't think so, because I truly do sense God's presence even in the scary times. I do know that the Holy Spirit is surrounding me even in times of pain and illness. Life is fragile. Pain and illness are an inevitable part of every life. Jesus certainly showed us that on the cross.

But the cross also shows that the pains, fears, and sorrows do not have the final say. The cross is ultimately empty. I might like my cross to be perfectly empty at this moment, but it is not. However, Jesus looking from the cross into Easter shows us that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, nor Covid nor anything else can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)

Pastor Scott Custead

***DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS, MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 15.***

**Worship is cancelled until further notice due to the coronavirus pandemic.
All other activities and events are also cancelled until further notice.**

Contribution & Attendance Summary**December 2019**

Contributions \$ 3,068.00

Average Weekly Attendance: 25

December 2020

Contributions \$ 661.00

Average Weekly Attendance: COVID

INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY**December 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020****INCOME**

Bank Interest	\$0.00
Contributions	
General	\$580.00
Designated	.\$81.00
Special	\$0.00
Other Income	\$4,000.00
	<hr/>
	\$4,661.00

EXPENSES

Pastoral Administration	\$2,117.97
Worship & Music	\$525.08
Office	\$1,048.50
Custodial & Property	\$1,321.45
Uncategorized	\$0.00
	<hr/>
	\$5,444.38

***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, Tim Surkovich, Mike Savino
Pastor Scott, Pastor Carol

Those serving in our military

Graystone Manor//Bellmeade

Robert Civils

Allegheny Lutheran Home:

Janet Kauffman

Inglenook Sr. Apts.:

Sylvia Malsatzki

In their own homes:

Deborah Manbeck

Mar 1—1 John 4:7-16, Psalm 145:1-7

Heavenly Father, thank You for revealing the greatest love possible through the death and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus. In His name we pray. Amen

Mar 2—Ephesians 4:29—5:2, Psalm 111

Dear Father in heaven, open our eyes to the sacrifices we can make for You as we daily walk in love on Your behalf. In Jesus' name and for His sake, we ask this. Amen

Mar 3—Hebrews 12:7-11, Psalm 107:23-32

Jesus, we honor You for carrying the heavy load of the Father's discipline for us. Now give us the strength to also say, "Father, forgive them," for all the discipline we received—both fair and unfair. For Your sake, we ask this. Amen

Mar 4—Isaiah 61:1-10—11, Psalm 31:1-5, 14-19

Jesus, thank You for completing Your work on earth for us and for providing us with the beautiful robe of righteousness in and through Baptism. Amen

Mar 5—Matthew 5:14-16, Psalm 104:1-5

Father in heaven, send forth Your light through us, Your chosen children, that many may turn to You and live. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Mar 6—2 Corinthians 4:16-18, Psalm 1

Dear Lord, help us to consider the wisdom of those who are aging and show them the love and respect they deserve. In Jesus' name we ask this. Amen

Mar 7—Ephesians 6:10-20, Psalm 93

Father in heaven, thank You for revealing Your wonder through the death and resurrection of Your Son. What a mighty God we serve! In Jesus' name. Amen

Mar 8—John 17:20-26, Psalm 103:11-19

Jesus, thank You that You came to earth from eternity and, while on earth, fulfilled our rescue. Through our Baptism into You, we know that our everlasting life is secure. Amen

Mar 9—John 15:9-11, Psalm 43

Jesus, while we may feel no joy for our circumstances, help us to find joy in the circumstances, for our hope is in You alone. Amen

Mar 10—Isaiah 40:28-31, Psalm 36:5-10

Dear Jesus, Your love for mankind motivated You to earn our salvation. Give me the strength to love sacrificially as well, even when difficult circumstances arise and I want to give up. Amen

Mar 11—1 Peter 3:15-22, Psalm 27:8-14

Father, during our storms in life, enable us to be strong, to take heart, and to wait for Your perfect timing. Grant us Your inner peace that wards off fear. For Jesus' sake we ask this. Amen

Mar 12—Hebrews 4:12-16, Psalm 19:7-11

Holy Spirit, reveal Your Word as the true source of life, comfort, truth, power, conviction, and forgiveness. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Mar 13—Romans 5:1-5, Psalm 100

Jesus, thank You for being our access to the grace of God. Keep us standing steadfast in the hope that is ours through Your blessed suffering, death, and resurrection. Amen

Mar 14—Colossians 3:1-3, Psalm 143:8-10

Jesus, through Your Word, may we learn more of how our lives are hidden in You. Amen

Mar 15—Hebrews 7:23-28, Psalm 57

"I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to You among the nations. For Your steadfast love is great to the heavens, Your faithfulness to the clouds" (Psalm 57:9-10). In Jesus' name. Amen

Mar 16—Hebrews 10:19-23, Psalm 65

Jesus, thank You for being faithful to Your promise of restoring us to an open relationship with the Father and for being the solid ground on which our faith stands. Amen

Mar 17—John 14:25-27, Psalm 29:10-11

Jesus, when life's problems close in on us and seem too big to handle, help us to look beyond the fear to the love revealed by You in the bigger picture. For Your sake I ask this. Amen

Mar 18—John 20:24-29, Psalm 63:1-8

Father, give us faith to trust in You and accept Your gentle leading in the changes necessary within us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Mar 19—John 20:30-31, Psalm 41

Jesus, thank You for loving us forever. Amen

Mar 20—Hebrews 13:5-8, Psalm 48

Jesus, thank You for Your Spirit's presence. Because of Him, we know that we will never face life alone. Amen

Mar 21—Numbers 21:4-9, Psalm 78:34-39

Father in heaven, thank You for revealing to us that by looking up to Your Son on the cross, we will receive eternal life through Him. In His name we pray. Amen

Mar 22—1 Kings 3:7-14, Psalm 86:11-17

Dear Father, open our hearts to acknowledge Your faithfulness in all plans You have for us. Give us undivided hearts that we may draw closer to You. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Mar 23—Matthew 18:21-22, Psalm 51:1-12

Father, give us the strength to offer forgiveness on our part when needed in order that healing within us may take place. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Mar 24—Job 40:1-7, Psalm 147:1-11

Dear Father, forgive us for doubting Your wisdom in our lives. Help us understand that You will always oversee us with love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Mar 25—Isaiah 7:13-14, Psalm 38

Father, thank You for the birth and death of Your Son, Jesus, as You reveal our new life through His death and resurrection. In His name. Amen

Mar 26—Acts 2:31-39, Psalm 145:8-16

Jesus, help us daily to remember our Baptism, which provides the treasured gifts of forgiveness of sins and the Holy Spirit. In Your name we ask this. Amen

Mar 27—Acts 3:1-10, Psalm 145:17-21

Jesus, out of reverence for You, we honor You as King of kings and Lord of lords. You are deserving of all praise. Amen

Mar 28—John 12:12-16, Psalm 45

Father in heaven, grant us the ability to recall the promises in Your Word as You prepare us for our journey forward in life, as well as into eternity with You. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Mar 29—2 Corinthians 9:6-15, Psalm 116:12-19

Lord Jesus, as we observe Your generosity this week through Your suffering on the cross, open our hearts to the needs of others for You. Amen

Mar 30—Hebrews 13:15-16, Psalm 148

Triune God, we offer to You our sacrifice of praise even in the most difficult circumstances, acknowledging first and foremost Your blood-bought gift of redemption for us. Amen

Mar 31—Luke 19:41-48, Psalm 146

Jesus, You provided the end of living under the Law for salvation, and now salvation rests in You alone. Thank You for salvation by grace. Amen

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.

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 Lightneer

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