



# Kirchenblatt April 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](mailto:scustead@atlanticbb.net) or [ccustead@atlanticbb.net](mailto:ccustead@atlanticbb.net)**

**OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY-THURSDAY 9 AM-1PM**

**EMAIL: [STJAMESALTOONA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:STJAMESALTOONA@GMAIL.COM)**

**WEBSITE: [WWW.STJAMESALTOONA.ORG](http://WWW.STJAMESALTOONA.ORG)**

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**MISSION STATEMENT:**

**TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST THROUGH WORD AND  
SACRAMENT BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

## PASTOR'S LETTER FOR April 2021



KIRCHENBLATT



"Curiosity is a gift from God. Curiosity, along with mystery, lies at the heart of creation. Curiosity pounds at the door of imagination. It fuels creativity, spiritual renewal, depth in relationships, scientific innovations, and the pursuit of truth. Curiosity gives birth to worship.

Albert Einstein affirms, "The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and science. He to whom the emotion is a stranger, who can no longer pause to wonder and stand wrapped in awe, is as good as dead—his eyes are closed. This insight into the mystery of life . . . is at the center of true religiousness."

This is a quote from a book I am slowly reading on my Kindle. I am reading it slowly in order to meditate on his writings. The book is called, "When Faith Fails", by Dominic Done. I think that title is misleading. The subtitle is better..."Finding God in the Shadow of Doubt".

I am reading this book because I am pretty sure that most believers, including pastors, have experienced times of doubt. The problem is that doubt is often seen as a sin and as the opposite of faith. The author and I both disagree with this! The previous quote explains that doubt can be a part of curiosity, mystery and wonder. For God has not fully revealed himself to us. We may wonder why God is veiled in mystery.

## PASTOR'S LETTER FOR April 2021



KIRCHENBLATT



As Pastor Scott commented on this to me, "The absence of the total revelation of God has lead me to a greater appreciation of the fact that I do not know, nor should I know everything. I now marvel that in faith I am included in that mystery." Ultimately a little doubt can strengthen our faith.

During the Easter season we will have the story of the disciple Thomas who is often called "Doubting Thomas". This nickname is really not fair to him. His doubt led to a very strong faith for him, and when Jesus did appear to him and showed him the wounds from his crucifixion, he proclaimed, "My Lord and my God!" That is the first statement that affirms the incarnation of Jesus. And the Apostle Thomas's story doesn't end there. To this day, Saint Thomas was the Apostle of India. In fact, there exists a population of Christians on the coast of India, who lay claim to conversion by St. Thomas. Their tradition holds that he built seven churches, was martyred during prayer by a spearing.

As we begin the Easter season in April I pray that this year the season will be a blessing to us all.

Easter Blessings,

*Pastor Carol*



**Contribution & Attendance Summary****January 2020**

Contributions \$  
Average Weekly Attendance:

**January 2021**

Contributions \$  
Average Weekly Attendance:

**INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY****January 1, 2021 - January 31, 2021****INCOME**

Bank Interest	\$0.00
Contributions	
General	\$190.00
Designated	\$
Special	\$
Other Income	\$8,000.00
	<hr/>
	\$8,190.00

**EXPENSES**

Pastoral Administration	\$1,343.57
Worship & Music	\$1,105.15
Office	\$1,404.04
Custodial & Property	\$3,061.79
Uncategorized	\$1,007.70
	<hr/>
	\$7,922.25

**April Birthdays**

Betty Boslet	4/12
Jeffery Boslet	4/27
Judith Dambeck	4/23
Jay Detwiler	4/10
Mark Hoover	4/2
Stephen Lightner	4/20
Pat McConnell	4/5
Ralph Muller	4/24
Eric Wilt	4/6

***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

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



## *Easter Flower Memorials 2021*

*IMO Dave & Bonnie*

*By Jean Bickel*

*IMO Irvin J. Boslet*

*IMO Charles & Ora Hetrick*

*IHO Children: Jeff, Carol and Andrea*

*IHO Grandchildren: Christopher, Jeff, Amy, Jessica,*

*Letitia, Laura, Julia, Jacob and Elijah*

*IHO Great Grand Children: Calista, Umeeka, Dawson,*

*Claudia, Aerien, Russell, Harley, Ryan, Taylor, Reilly,*

*Dean, Kenleaya, and Huntley*

*By Betty J Boslet*

*IHO all who have worked on and are working on*

*developing COVID-19 vaccines*

*By Pastors Carol & Scott Custead*

*IMO our father William Mills*

*And our mother Margaret Detwiler*

*By David and Dana Detwiler*

*IMO Margaret & Kenneth Foster Sr.*

*IMO Ken Foster Jr.*

*IMO Louisa J Marshall*

*IMO Joan & Charles Redenberger*

*By Donna Jean Foster*

*IMO Robert & Vivian Hensch*

*IMO Robert & Blanche Schroeder*

*By Bob & Karen Hensch*





## *2021 Easter Flower Memorials*



*IHO Bob & Marian Holsinger Children  
Nick (Brandy), Kasey (Jr) & Kelley  
Grandkids Braeden, Zachary, Samantha, Jack & Max  
IMO Walter & Marian Muller  
IMO Patty Sharrar & Betty Muller  
By Bob & Evelyn Holsinger*

*IMO Our father and grandfather Robert Leonard  
IMO Our mother and grandmother Marlene Leonard  
By David, Brian, Tracy, Tara and Matthew Leonard*

*IMO Delores M Hoover  
By Mark F Hoover*

*IHO Celebrating Easter  
By Sharon Lightner*

*IMO David, Nathan, Sheila, and Grammy Jean  
By Shirley Manbeck*

*IMO my husband William Mills  
By Verna Mills*

*IHO Our Children and their spouses and  
Grandchildren:*

*Eric and Julia Wilt  
Elliott Wilt, Erikka and Eric Kuhse  
Ethan and Ashley Wilt  
Dana and Todd Mayo  
Haley, Jada, Sienna Mayo  
IMO Our parents Kenneth and Louise Civils  
Ira and Dorothy Wilt  
IMO Our sisters and brothers and loved ones  
By Donna & Bill Wilt*



Apr 1—Matthew 26:17-30, Psalm 115

Lord, we praise You and thank You because You have remembered us. You sent Jesus, and He forgave our sins. Because of Him, we are not “it” anymore. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen

Apr 2—John 19:17-30, Psalm 69:16-33

Lord Jesus, for Your thirst, they gave You sour wine to drink. That was our sour wine to drink. But You drank it for us so that we can have a perfect, balanced life before God through Your merits. For that, we praise Your name; we magnify You with thanksgiving! In Your name we pray. Amen

Apr 3—Matthew 27:57-66, Psalm 16

We bless You, Lord, because You are always beside us, keeping us from being shaken. Our hearts are glad, and our whole beings rejoice; our bodies dwell secure. You make known to us the path of life; in Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. In Jesus’ name. Amen

Apr 4—Mark 16:1-8, Psalm 8

O Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth! What are we that You are mindful of us? Yet You have crowned us with glory and honor. You have given us dominion over works of Your hands; You have put all obstacles under our feet. In the name of Jesus. Amen

Apr 5—Ephesians 6:10-20, Psalm 28

We pray to You, Lord, for You have heard our voices. You are our strength; in You our hearts trust, and we are helped; You are the strength of Your people. Be our shepherd and carry us forever. In the name of Jesus. Amen

Apr 6—Job 14:1-9, Psalm 51

Lord, wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin! Wash us in our Baptism, and we will be whiter than snow. Create in us a clean heart and restore to us the joy of Your salvation. May the waters of our Baptism keep our new hearts budding and putting out branches of love and joy. In the name of Jesus. Amen

Apr 7—John 5:19-29, Psalm 73:21-28

Lord, You are all we want in heaven! You are all we want on earth! You are rock-firm and faithful. Our bodies and hearts may fail, but You are the strength of our souls and our portion forever. Oh, how refreshing is Your presence! We’ve made You our home! God, we are telling the world what You do! In Jesus’ name. Amen

Apr 8—Mark 10:46-52, Psalm 91

Lord, we want to dwell in Your shelter to abide in the shadow of the Almighty. You are our refuge and fortress, our God, in whom we trust. We trust that when we call to You, You will answer us; You will be with us in trouble; You will rescue us and honor us. With long life, You will satisfy us and show us Your salvation. In the name of Jesus. Amen

Apr 9—Mark 15:21-31, Psalm 38

Lord, we confess our iniquity; we're sorry for our sin. We seek our own will and the approval of others, instead of obedience to You even if it brings temporary pain. But for You, O Lord, do we wait; it is You, O Lord our God, who will answer. You gave us Jesus, and He forgives us and helps us to obey You and to always give You glory. In Jesus' name. Amen

Apr 10—Mark 7:31-37, Psalm 148:12-14

Lord, we praise You, for Your name alone is exalted; Your majesty is above earth and heaven. May our words and actions bring You glory. In Jesus' name. Amen

Apr 11—Matthew 10:26-33, Psalm 105:1-11

Lord, we thank You for giving us Your Son as the cure for our sins; we call upon Your name. Because of Jesus' sacrifice, we can, through Your Holy Spirit, make known Your deeds among the peoples! Help us to tell of all the wondrous works of the cure of Your salvation! In the name of Jesus. Amen

Apr 12—Matthew 16:21-28, Psalm 49:7-15

Lord, we ask You to not let us live just for the moment or look out only for ourselves. Help us to see the big picture of Your plan for our lives, because we already know the great ending. Set our minds on the things of Your kingdom and not on the things of this world. In Jesus' name. Amen

Apr 13—Matthew 26:30-35, Psalm 46:1-3

Lord, You are our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Apart from You, we cannot do anything. But You renew us every day and give us strength to do Your will. In the name of Jesus. Amen

Apr 14—Matthew 9:18-26, Psalm 42

Lord, as a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants our soul for You. Our soul thirsts for You, for the living God. We hope in You because only You have the final say in our lives. Lay Your hands on us through Your Word and Sacraments and we will forever live with You. In Jesus' name. Amen

Apr 15—Proverbs 19:23-29, Psalm 1

Lord, help us with Your Holy Spirit to walk not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the way of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers; but help our delight to be in Your Word, that on Your Word we meditate day and night. In Jesus, we are like a tree planted by streams of water. May we, in You, yield fruit in season and, in all that we do, prosper according to Your gracious will. In Jesus' name. Amen

Apr 16—Proverbs 25, Psalm 141

Lord, guard our mouths and watch the door of our lips. Help us to speak kind and humble words. May Jesus, the only one who is truly just, set us straight; may You, the only one who is truly kind, correct us. Though the world may fail us, our eyes are on You, O Lord. In You, we seek refuge and rectitude of heart. In the name of Jesus. Amen



Apr 17—Proverbs 26:12-20, Psalm 55:16-23

Lord, we call to You, and You will save us. You redeem our souls in safety from the battles of life that we wage. We cast our burdens on You, and You will sustain us; You will never permit the righteous in Christ to be moved. May Your Spirit strengthen our faith and lead us to trust in You and not in our earthly wisdom. In Jesus' name. Amen

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Apr 18—Proverbs 27:1-18, Psalm 2

Lord, You use steel to sharpen steel, iron to sharpen iron, and friends to sharpen one another. Use our Christian friends in Your love and mercy. May we never see a godly reprimand as a curse, but may we value it as Your way of shaping us into Your image through the people around us. In the name of Jesus'. Amen

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Apr 19—Proverbs 29:17-27, Psalm 31:14-24

Lord, we trust in You; from You we get justice. Our times are in Your hand; rescue us from the hand of our enemies and from our persecutors! You have wondrously shown Your steadfast love to us. In You, we are brave and strong. We don't give up. We expect Your justice to get here soon. In Jesus' name. Amen

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Apr 20—Proverbs 3:13-35, Psalm 104:13-25

Lord, how great are Your works! In wisdom, You made them all; the earth is full of Your creatures and is satisfied with the fruit of Your work. You cause the grass to grow for the livestock and plants for us to cultivate, that we may have food. You provide for us while on earth and eternally. You strengthen our hearts and give us joy. In Jesus' name. Amen

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Apr 21—Proverbs 30:21-33, Psalm 14

Lord, we have been foolish, saying with actions, "There is no God." Forgive us in Jesus so that we can exalt You only. Thank You for turning our lives around. You gave us Jesus and, with Him, the joy of Your salvation and the courage to do Your work. In the name of Jesus. Amen

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Apr 22—Proverbs 31:10-31, Psalm 15

Lord, thank You for the fragrance of the love and care from our loved ones. Thank You for giving us a family in our Baptism and for strengthening all of our relationships because of Your sacrifice on the cross. Help us to always honor those around us. In Jesus' name only. Amen

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Apr 23—Acts 4:11-13, Psalm 20

Lord, thank You for sending us Jesus in the day of trouble! His powerful name protects us. In Your grace, rebuke the devil's plans against us. Grant us the desires of our hearts and fulfill our plans according to Your perfect will. We trust in Your name only. Amen

Apr 24—2 Chronicles 7:11-22, Psalm 21

Lord, we pray, help us seek Your face and turn from our wrongdoings. Hear from heaven, forgive sins, and heal our land. Let our leaders trust in You. We pray that You would use our leaders to heal our land and help spread the word of Your salvation. In Jesus' name. Amen

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Apr 25—2 Corinthians 12:1-10, Psalm 23

Lord, You are our shepherd; You are all we need. Even though we walk through very difficult times, we will not be afraid, for You are with us; Your Word and Sacraments comfort us. And after this life, we will be in Your house forever. In Jesus' name. Amen

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Apr 26—Isaiah 1:16-25, Psalm 24

Lord, we want to be in Your presence and receive Your blessings. Wash us; make us clean; help us to cease to do evil; and teach us to do good, to seek justice, to correct oppression, to bring justice to the fatherless, and to plead the widow's cause. In Jesus, though our sins were like scarlet, they became as white as snow; though they were red like crimson, they became like wool. In Jesus' name only. Amen

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Apr 27—Matthew 6:5-15, Psalm 31

Lord, into Your hand we commit our spirit. Our strength fails because of our iniquity, and our bones waste away. But in You, Lord, we take refuge. Forgive us as we forgive others, and bring us back to You in prayer when we wander away. You are our rock and fortress; You have redeemed us, faithful God. Only by the name of Jesus. Amen

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Apr 28—Luke 14:15-24, Psalm 32

Lord, thank You because, in Jesus, our transgression is forgiven, our sin is covered. For when we kept our sin silent, our bones wasted away through our groaning all day long. But we acknowledged our sin to You, and we did not cover our iniquity, and You forgave the iniquity of our sin. Only by the name of Jesus. Amen

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Apr 29—Matthew 7:24-27, Psalm 119:104-106

Lord, Your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Help us to listen to Your Word and put it into practice to show the world Your love and mercy. In Jesus' name. Amen

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Apr 30—Mark 5:1-20, Psalm 107:1-30

Lord, we wandered in desert wastes; hungry and thirsty, our souls fainted within us. Then we cried to You in our trouble, and You delivered us through Jesus. We thank You, Lord, for Your steadfast love, for Your wondrous works to us! Help us to cross seas in faith that we may be used by You for Your glory. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen

# Announcements and Upcoming Events

Worship is will resume on Palm Sunday  
March 28th.

COVID Guidelines will be in effect!

Also all other activities and events are  
cancelled until further notice including  
Maundy Thursday and  
Good Friday Services.

IN THE CASE OF A PASTORAL EMERGENCY, please contact Pastor s Scott & Carol Custead at  
Phone: 814-254-3072 Email: [scustead@atlanticbb.net](mailto:scustead@atlanticbb.net) or [ccustead@atlanticbb.net](mailto:ccustead@atlanticbb.net)  
The church office email is [stjamesaltoona@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesaltoona@gmail.com) The church's website is [www.stjamesaltoona.org](http://www.stjamesaltoona.org)  
Find us on Facebook to get up-to-date information.



June 13, 2021  
Highland Park, Pavilion #1

11:00 AM Communion Worship Service

12:00 PM Meal

**Rockandy**

Pat McCormick's band will play following the meal.

**DEADLINE FOR THE MAY ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS, THURSDAY,  
APRIL 15.**

### ***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*

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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