



**St. James Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
September 5, 2021  
Fifteenth Sunday after  
Pentecost  
Communion  
St. James Sunday**

**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.***

**PULPIT SUPPLY: ROGER GLAD  
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: Now we Remain D. Haas and E.T. Child  
*(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 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.**

In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, for his sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

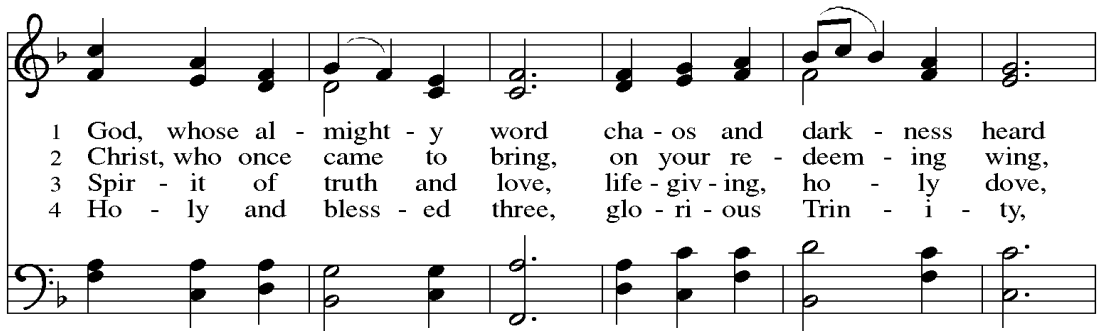
*We Gather*

\*GATHERING SONG: God, Whose Almighty Word

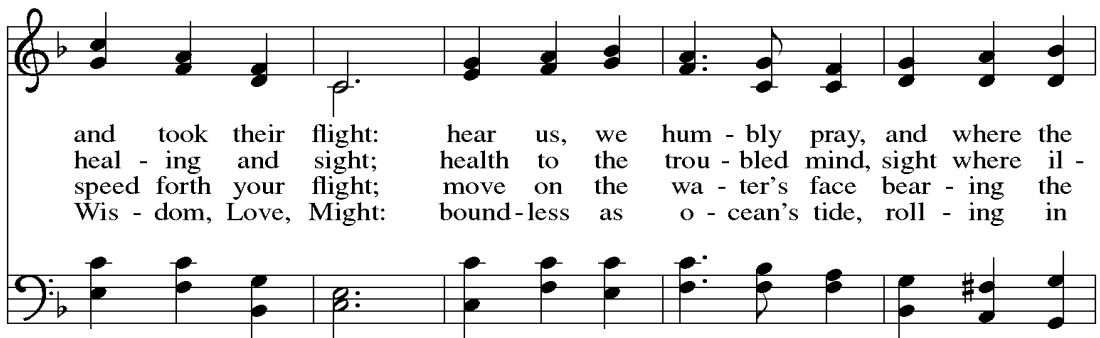
ELW 673

NEXT PAGE

# God, Whose Almighty Word



1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard  
2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,  
3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,  
4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,



and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the  
heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -  
speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the  
Wis - dom, Love, Might: bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in



gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light.  
lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man-kind let there be light.  
lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place let there be light.  
full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

Text: John Marriott, 1780–1825, alt.  
Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

**\*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.

# \*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Let us pray.

**Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. Amen**

*We Listen to the Word*

**First Reading:**

**Isaiah 35:4-7a**

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.” <sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7a</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

**146**

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

<sup>2</sup>**I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

<sup>3</sup>Put not your trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there is no help.

<sup>4</sup>**When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish.**

<sup>5</sup>Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the LORD their God;

**<sup>6</sup>who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;**

<sup>7</sup>who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.

**<sup>8</sup>The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

**<sup>10</sup>The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

## **Second Reading:**

**James 2:1-10, 14-17**

A reading from James.

<sup>1</sup>My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? <sup>2</sup>For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, <sup>3</sup>and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," <sup>4</sup>have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

<sup>5</sup>Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup>But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? <sup>7</sup>Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

<sup>8</sup>You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>9</sup>But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

<sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? <sup>17</sup>So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

**\*GOSPEL:**

**Mark 7:24-37**

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.



<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,<sup>25</sup> but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet.

<sup>26</sup>Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup>He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." <sup>28</sup>But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." <sup>29</sup>Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." <sup>30</sup>So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

<sup>31</sup>Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup>They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup>He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup>Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." <sup>35</sup>And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup>Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup>They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

### **The Gospel of the Lord.**



Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

### ***We Respond to the Word***

\*Hymn of the Day:  
**NEXT PAGE**

We Come to You for Healing, Lord

ELW 617

# We Come to You for Healing, Lord

1 We come to you for heal - ing, Lord, of  
2 As once you walked through an - cient streets and  
3 You touch us through phy - si - cians' skills, through  
4 When nights are long with wake - ful - ness, through  
5 We come to you, O lov - ing Lord, in

bod - y, mind, and soul, and pray that by your  
reached toward those in pain, come, ris - en Christ, a -  
nurs - es' gifts of care, and through the love of  
days when strength runs low, grant us your gift of  
our dis - tress and pain, in trust that through our

Spir - it's touch we may a - gain be whole.  
mong us still with pow'r to heal a - gain.  
faith - ful friends who lift our lives in prayer.  
pa - tience, Lord, your calm - ing peace to know.  
nights and days your grace will heal, sus - tain.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923

Music: MARTYRDOM, Hugh Wilson, 1764-1824

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## **\*Creed**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Holy One, you bring your people together in worship. Enliven your church. Guide all evangelists, preachers, prophets, and missionaries who seek to share your love through word and deed. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You provide water for thirsty ground and sunshine to feed hungry plants. Bless all who advocate for healthy forests, unpolluted air, and clean waterways. Inspire all people to show care for the world you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You show no partiality. Increase justice in all nations. Encourage leaders and governments to work with one another for the good of our common world. (*Especially as we celebrate Labor Day,*) unite us in seeking the health, safety, and dignity of all. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You accompany those who are most in need. Shelter all fleeing violence or persecution, protect any who are in danger, and sustain them through uncertain and unstable times. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You support the work of your disciples. Continue to nurture the leadership and ministries of this congregation (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You embrace all who have died in the faith and brought them into your glorious presence. We thank you for their example and rejoice in their lives. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; 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*

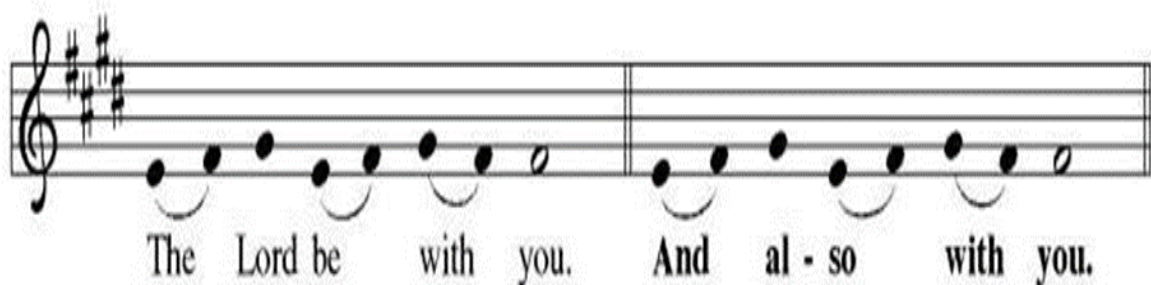
\*Offering Prayer:

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.

C: **Amen.**

## *We Share the Feast*

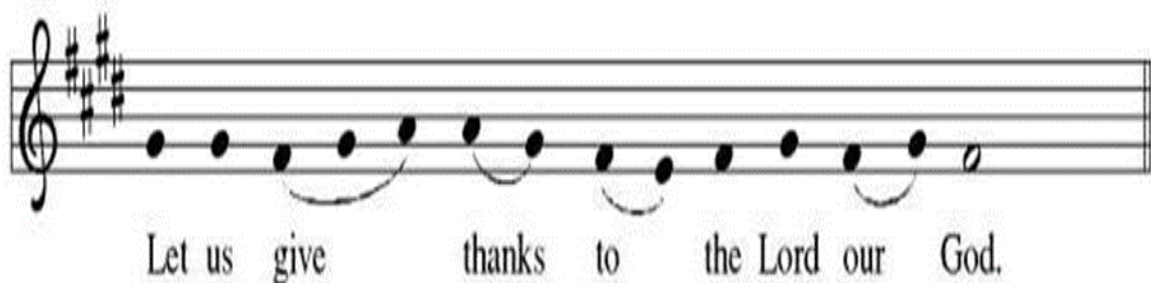
\*Holy Communion



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**P:** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ, who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

# Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

## \*Thanksgiving at the Table

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we might receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Today we receive the Holy Eucharist through elements that have been pre-consecrated on this altar by Pastors Scott and Carol Custead.

In the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist we are told that on the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, gave it for all to eat saying, "This is my body given for you, do this for the remembrance of me". Again after supper, we are told, that he took the cup, gave thanks, gave it for all to drink saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins, do this for the remembrance of me".

Lord remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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.**



\*Invitation to Communion

P: Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as you once revealed yourself to your disciples.

## Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

**SOLO: Be Thou My Vision**

**Bob Hench**

Communion Distribution

\*Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen**



**C** Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud - ly bear his name.



He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## **\*Prayer after Communion**

**P:** Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C:** Amen.

## ***We Are Sent***

### **\*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: Jesus Loves Me! ELW 595  
(next page)

### **\*Dismissal**

**P:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

Recessional: We Who Once Were Dead Veelenturf/Child

# Jesus Loves Me!

1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;  
2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;  
3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;

The first system of music consists of a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp). The treble staff contains a vocal melody with lyrics underneath. The bass staff contains a piano accompaniment of chords and single notes.

lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.  
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.  
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are aligned with the notes in the treble staff.

*Refrain*

Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,

The refrain begins with the word 'Refrain' written above the treble staff. The melody and accompaniment are shown for the first two phrases of the refrain.

yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

The second part of the refrain continues the melody and accompaniment, ending with a double bar line.

### **Our Prayer List:**

Pastor Scott Carol Weaver Shirley Manbeck Bill Wilt Donna Foster  
Tim Surkovich Dana Detwiler

(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

#### ***Inglenook Sr. Apts.***

Sylvia Malsatzki

#### ***Allegheny Lutheran Home:***

Janet Kauffman

#### ***In their own homes:***

Deborah Manbeck



## **Worship Guidelines**

The council decided to follow the new CDC guidelines, so for fully vaccinated people, wearing masks is optional.

# CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN THE CASE OF A PASTORAL EMERGENCY,  
In the event of a Pastoral Emergency, please contact Pastor Dave Bowman  
Phone: 814-696-0091 Cell: 814-330-8025

The church office email is [stjamesaltoona@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesaltoona@gmail.com) The church's  
website is [www.stjamesaltoona.org](http://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.\*\*\*\***

# Important Dates and INFORMATION

**Sunday September 19, 3pm** – Installation of Allegheny Synod Bishop Paula Schmitt

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton will join us to install our new Bishop on Sunday Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>. The service is being held at First Lutheran Church in Altoona. The color for the day is red. We will be livestreaming the service and there will be a reception following hosted by our partners at Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministries.



Bethany Lutheran is doing a Sight & Sound Trip, planned and organized with St. Luke's in Roaring Spring on September 25th. Sight and Sound will be performing Queen Esther. The people of St. James are invited. The cost per person is \$195 and will include your ticket, transportation to Sight & Sound, and a meal. Payment details will be through Bethany's office. More details will be available at a later date.



Dear Members of St. James,

We are writing you to inform you that we have found it necessary to resign our positions as transitional pastors for St. James Church. This is not easy for us to do, but Pastor Scott's health is not improving. He is facing a second Cardiac ablation surgery in September. Meanwhile his blood sodium level has dropped. Although we are hopeful that these issues will ultimately resolve, it is the case that we cannot with any confidence predict if or when we would be able to resume any sort of pastoral ministry. We have informed Bishop Schmitt of this decision, and we assume the synod will be working with you to plan for St. James' future.

We would like to thank you for the acceptance and support we have felt from you during our time serving St. James. We would also thank you for welcoming us into what has been our church home for five years. We, like many of you, have come to love the worship space, history, and people that make St. James the unique place that it is. We will miss you.

Please keep us in your prayers, and know that you will be in ours.

In Christ's Love,

Pastors Carol and Scott Custead





# Allegheny Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's Work. Our hands.

701 Quail Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602 • 814-942-1042 • 814-941-9259 fax • office@alleghenysynod.com

A Pastoral Message of Farewell  
Bishop Michael Rhyne  
August 25<sup>th</sup> 2021

*God be with you till we meet again; by good counsels guide, uphold you, with a shepherd's care enfold you;  
God be with you till we meet again. Till we meet, Till we meet at Jesus feet; God be with you till we meet  
again.*

*'God Be With You Till We Meet Again'* Jeremiah Rankin and William Tomer

Dearest Friends in the Allegheny Synod,

It has been my greatest honor to serve as your Bishop these last seven years. We have seen times of great joy and times of challenge. But our Lord Jesus continues to walk with us no matter what comes our way. I thank God for you. I will always treasure the time we have had together. I am deeply grateful for the many ways you have blessed me and my family.

I would ask you to remember who and whose you are. You are baptized children of God. In our baptism we were eternally united to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. That gift of life in Jesus changes everything. We do not have to be like the rest of the world. We don't have to put ourselves first, we don't have to look out for number one, and we don't have to fight to see who can accumulate the biggest pile of stuff before we die. Since we belong to Jesus, our lives are a blessing that can be given away and shared for the sake of others. You are agents of the love of God moving in this world. You are vessels through which the Holy Spirit blesses this creation. You are called by Jesus to follow his self-sacrificial life.

I have seen that in you. Repeatedly the Holy Spirit has surprised me in the way you are able to care for God's people. Because of how the Holy Spirit is at work through you; the hungry are fed, the cold have clothes and blankets, children are taught the faith, seminarians are trained to serve God's church, and so very much more. The Spirit does not sit still. Rather the Spirit grabs a hold of us and uses us to care for, love, and help this broken world.

My hope is you will continue to seek out ways you may more fully live into your calling as the body of Christ. God has given the Allegheny Synod everything you need to carry out God's mission. It doesn't mean it is going to necessarily be easy. Following Jesus never promised to be easy. We may even fall into the trap of thinking we don't have enough. However, we remember that we follow the Lord Jesus who took five loaves and two fish and fed five thousand people. We serve a God who brings life from death, who brings healing and hope when we may feel there is no hope left, and who is in the business of surpassing our expectations. Most importantly Jesus promises to be with us always, even until the end of the age.

I pray you continue to see the ways that Christ is active and alive around you. I pray you know the love of Jesus. I pray that you will be continually transformed and reformed by Jesus and used by him to make this world a better place.

Again, I thank God for all of you. The Allegheny Synod will forever be in my prayers. You have marked and blessed my life. May God be with you until we meet again.

Your brother in Christ,

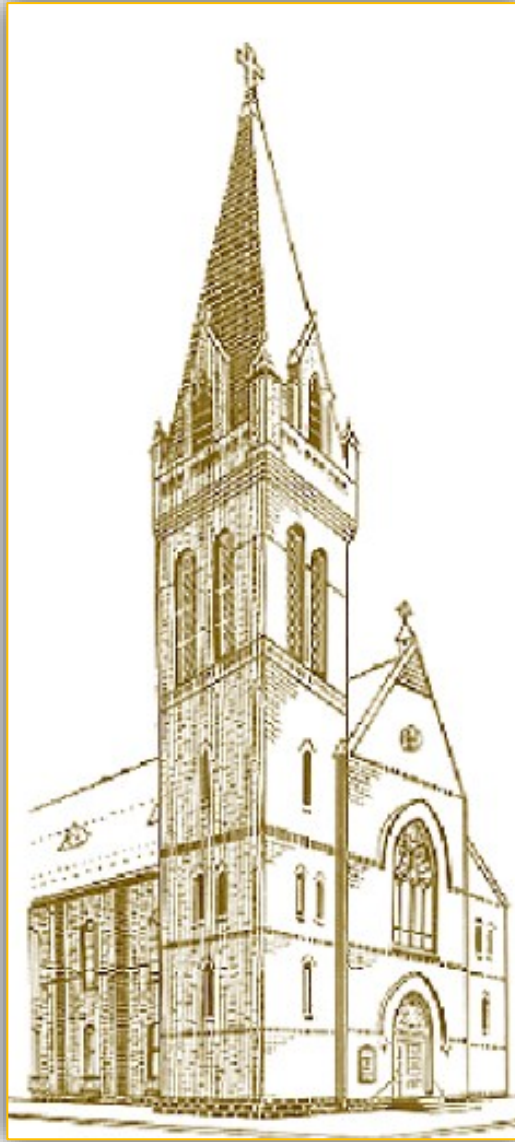
+Bishop Michael Rhyne



**CHURCH COUNCIL  
MEETING TUESDAY**

**September 14th 6 PM**

**COVID Guidelines will  
be in effect!**



ST. JAMES EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*St. James Evangelical  
Lutheran Church*

**1407 Eighth Avenue  
Altoona, PA 16602**

**814-944-6835**

**[stjamesaltoona@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesaltoona@gmail.com)**

**[www.stjamesaltoona.org](http://www.stjamesaltoona.org)**



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.