

St. James Evangelical **Lutheran Church December 4, 2022** 2nd Sunday of Advent Communion

> **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 vou please sign our quest book.

Vice Pastor: Pastor Drew McCaffery 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: Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel Manz and Cassler (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.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

An extended silence may be kept.

Most 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, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called 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 the Son, and of the Holy Sprit. **Amen.**

We Gather

Prepare the Royal Highway



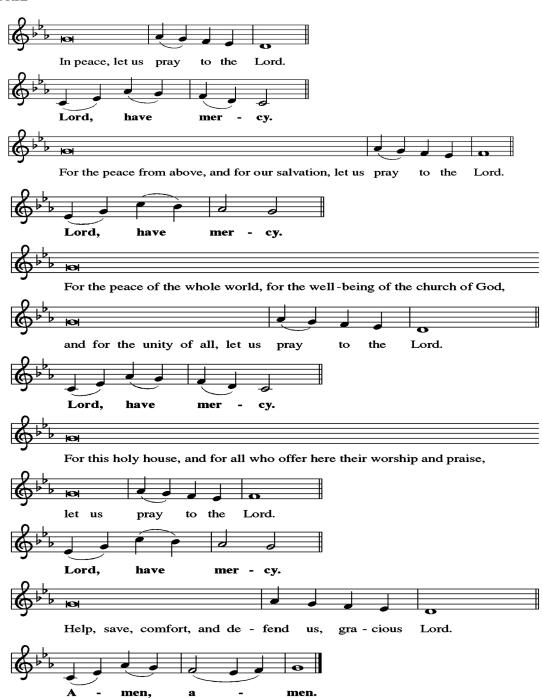
Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship* Music: BEREDEN VÅG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent. Text ⊙ 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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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.



*CANTICLE OF PRAISE





*PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

* LIGHTING OF 2ND ADVENT CANDLE

*Candle Lighting Hymn

People Look East

ELW 248





Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965
Music: BESANÇON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934
Text ♥ Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.
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We Listen to the Word

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

A reading from Isaiah.

- ¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- ²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- ³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear;
- ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
- ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.
- The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
- ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.
- ¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The word of the Lord Thanks be to God.

- ¹Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;
- ²that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;
- ³that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.
- ⁴Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.
- ⁵May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.
- ⁶Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.
- ⁷In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- ¹⁸Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds!
- ¹⁹And blessed be your glorious name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

Second Reading:

Romans 15:4-13

A reading from Romans.

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. 5 May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. 8For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,

and sing praises to your name";

¹⁰and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

¹¹and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; ¹²and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope."

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu

*GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.



¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. 10 Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 11"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The Gospel of the Lord.

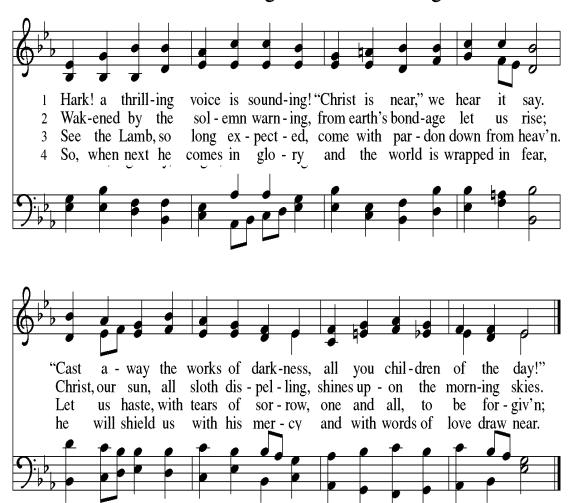


We Respond to the Word

*Hymn of the Day:

ELW 246

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!



Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878 Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

*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,

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.

and his kingdom will have no end.

Prayers of Intercession

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

God, you renew the church in every age. We give thanks for hymn writers and theologians (*especially John of Damascus, whom we commemorate today*). Inspire teachers, writers, and musicians to delight and instruct your people. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You give us a vision of creation in harmony, when hurting and destruction will be no more. Teach us to be stewards of the earth and companions to its creatures. Restore to balance and wholeness what human greed has harmed. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You defend the cause of all who are poor and oppressed. Raise up leaders who will govern with equity and serve the common good. Guide judges, lawmakers, and public officials to protect the rights of those who cannot advocate for themselves. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You deliver those in need from suffering and fear. Come to the aid of any who are exploited or abused, especially children, elders, and victims of human trafficking. Provide safety and help to our neighbors without shelter, refugees, and those fleeing violence. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You urge your people to welcome one another as you have welcomed us. Nurture ministries of hospitality and care in this and every congregation (*local examples may be named*). We pray for people who are homebound, hospitalized, or separated from loved ones (*especially*). God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You embrace all who have died trusting in your promises, and we give thanks for their faithful witness. Sustain us in hope until we are united with them in the joy of your eternal presence. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

- *Sharing of the Peace
- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C And also with you.

We Offer Our Gifts

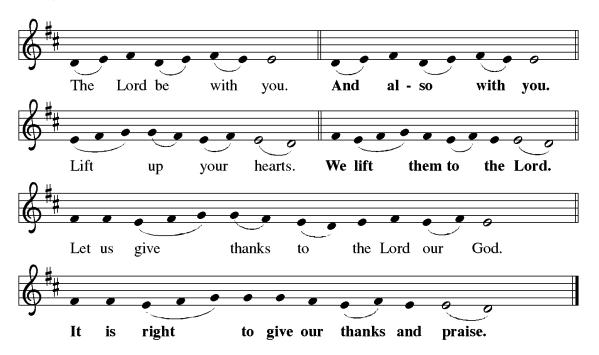
*Offering Prayer:

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts; ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the One who gave Himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

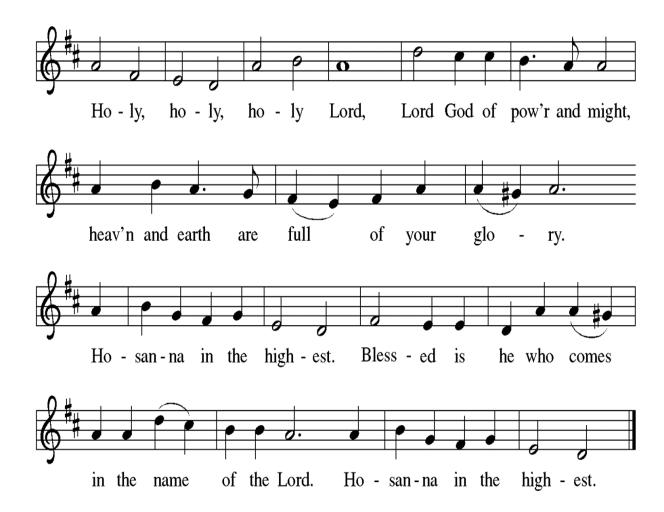
We Share the Feast

*Holy Communion



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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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



*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.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after the supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and 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 sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

For as often as we eat this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

*The Lord's Prayer

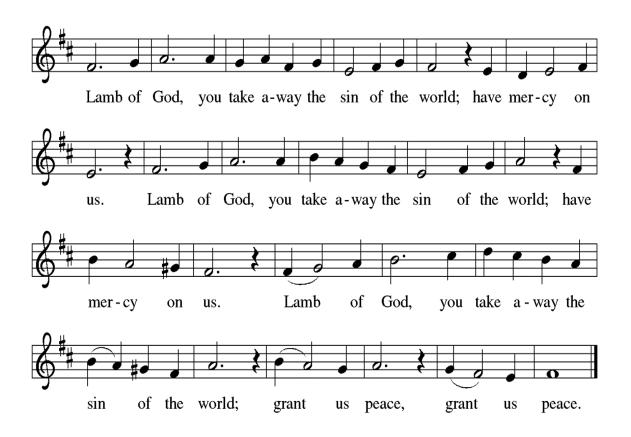
Lord remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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



Communion Distribution—The Communion cups are opened at this time. Remove the Communion wafer from the cup—**P**: Body of Christ given for you.

Remove wrapper from Wine cup—**P**: Blood of Christ shed for you.

*Post-Communion Blessing

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

C: Amen

*Song after Communion:



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



*Prayer after Communion

P: Let us pray.

Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

We Are Sent

*Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. 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: NEXT PAGE

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

ELW 241

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Recessional: Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; tr. composite Music: WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN, Johann Crüger, 1598-1662



IN THE CASE OF A PASTORAL EMERGENCY,

In the event of a Pastoral Emergency, please contact Pastor Drew McCaffery Work: 814-944-7560 Cell: 814-538-9036

Email: pastordrew0604@gmail.com

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. ****





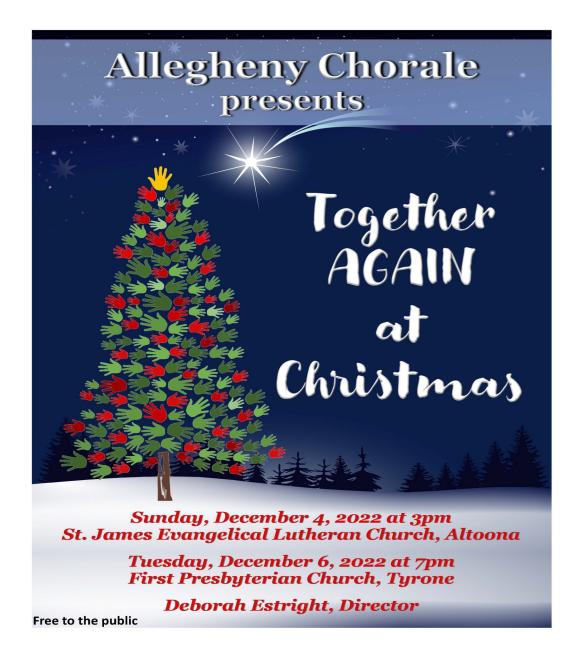


UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

SWEETS AND TREATS
ALLEGHENY CHORALE CONCERT
BULLETIN DEADLINE
WELCA CHRISTMAS PARTY
COUNCIL MEETING
BULLETIN DEADLINE
KIRCHENBLATT ARTICLE DEADLINE
BULLETIN DEADLINE
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
NO SERVICES CHRISTMAS DAY

DEC 4 10 AM
DEC 4 3 PM
DEC 6 10:30AM
DEC 10 12 PM
DEC 11 12 PM
DEC 13 10:30AM
DEC 15 12 PM
DEC 20 10:30AM
DEC 24 8 PM
DEC 25





We ask the congregation to please contribute cookies for the social after the concert. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex.



NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL **MEETING**

December 11th 12 PM

COVID Guidelines will be in effect!

Our Prayer List:

Pastor Scott Jeff Bickel Tim Surkovich Debbie Thomas Carol Weaver Donna Foster Jean Bickel Donna Wilt Carolyn Feather Bill Dambeck Judy Dambeck Bill Wilt Steve Ligthner

(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

Homewood

Sylvia Malsatzki

Allegheny Lutheran Home: In their own homes: Janet Kauffman

Deborah Manbeck



Worship Guidelines

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



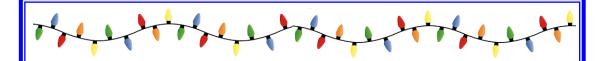


WELCA CHRISTMAS CHARITY PROJECT

We will be collecting non food items for the **HOPE Drop In Center** (*Health, Opportunity, Purpose, Empowerment*)

Examples of items needed: tissues, toothpaste, hair products, toilet paper, paper towels, soap, etc. Items can be hung on the tree in the Narthax or placed in the box beside the tree.





WELCA's Christmas Luncheon

All are invited!



DATE DECEMBER 10, 2022 TIME: 12PM

WHERE: Altoona Perkins (Private Party Room)

*Must register no later Dec 3rd by calling the St James church office at 944-6835, or Margaret Thatcher at 814-943-4749

Guest Speaker: Aimee Burns, Executive Director of NAMI

Topic: Holiday Stress

This opportunity provided by THRIVENT grant.

thrivent[®]



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America





JOIN US AS WE DO DISASTER RELIEF IN SARASOTA, FLORIDA



Disaster Clean Up

We will help remove and possibly rebuild designated areas, working with Lutheran Disaster Response, which were hit by Hurricane lan in Sept 2022.



Engage in your Faith

Every evening, we hope to explore the local community with various excursions which may include some beach fun, sunset worship, devotions, provided by Luther Springs Camp Counselors.



Hand out Meals

We will hand out meals to the local community.



Explore the Community

We also hope to explore Sarasota through snorkeling trip, sunset dolphin excursion or a boat outing. 'Dependant on availability



FOR YOUTH (AGES 15-18)
REGISTRATION WILL BE AVAILABLE
IN JANUARY

IF INTERESTED, CONTACT PASTOR DREW MCCAFFERY

pastordrew0604@gmail.com







Synod Assembly Nominations

Where is the Holy Spirit calling you?

Prayerfully consider how you can serve your Synod

Synod Council

2 Year Term: 1 Lay Male, 1 Youth (Age 15-18) 4 Year Term: 1 Lay Male

3 Year Term: 1 Lay Female , 1 Lay Male, 1 Clergy 5 Year Term: 1 Lay Female , 2 Clergy Female

Discipline Committee

6 Year Term: 1 Lay Female, 1 Clergy Male

Consultation Committee

3 Year Term: 1 Clergy Female

5 Year Term: 1 Clergy Male

6 Year Term: 1 Lay Female

Mission Endowment Committee

3 Yr. Term: 2 Clergy/Lay, Male or Female

For further questions or information about the various positions, please contact Pastor Drew McCaffery (pastordrew0604@gmail.com)

Duties of respective committees

Synod Council (3 Yr. Term by Assembly Vote, Youth-2 Yr Term) Each person elected to the Synod Council shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod, with the exception of ordained ministers on the roster of this synod who reside outside the territory of this synod. The process for election and the term of office when not otherwise provided shall be specified in the bylaws. A member of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, unless otherwise elected as a voting member of the Synod Council, may serve as an advisory member of the Synod Council with voice but not vote. Meetings are held Bi-Monthly (every other month) or if a special meeting is called by Bishop and/or council members.

Consultation Committee (6 Yr. Term by Assembly Vote)

The Consultation Committee of this synod shall consist of at least six persons and not more than 12 persons, of whom half shall be ordained ministers and half shall be laypersons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive reelection. The functions of the Consultation Committee are set forth in Chapter 20 of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and in Chapter 17 of this Constitution. The size of the Consultation Committee, in accord with this provision, shall be defined in this synod's bylaws. Committee is on call at the request of the Bishop.

Discipline Committee (6 Yr Term by Assembly Vote)
From the ELCA Constitution: There shall be set forth in the bylaws a process of discipline governing officers, ministers of Word and Sacrament, ministers of Word and Service, congregations, and members of congregations. Except as provided in 20.18. or 20.19., such process shall assure due process and due protection for the accused, other parties, and this church. Since synods have responsibility for admittance of persons into the rostered ministries of this church and have oversight of pastoral and congregational relationships, the disciplinary process shall be a responsibility of the synod

on behalf of this church. Committee is on call at the request of the Bishop.

Thirty-Fifth Annual Allegheny Synod Assembly

NOMINATIONS FORM

June 17th, 2023 Please "X" below all positions of interest. (Number) = Number Elected for that position

Synod Council - 3 Yr. Term Lay Female (1) Lay Male (1) Clergy – Male or Female (1) Synod Council-2 Yr. Term Lay Male (1)*		1) Disciplin	y Femal ergy Mal e – 5 Yr y Femal	e (1) le (1) . <u>Term:</u>				INSERT DIGITAL PHOHERE		
Youth-Age 15-18 (1) Consultation – 6 Yr. Term: Lay Female (1)		Disciplin		. Term:	,					
Consultation – 5 Yr. Term: Clergy – Male (1)* Consultation – 3 Yr. Term: Clergy Female (1)*			Mission Endowment Fund Committee:3 Yr. Term (2) Clergy/Lay – Male or Female							
0.0.19) , 0.11.20 (.//		- 27	*Terms have been adjusted due to no fulfillments in previous assembly election(s)							700
Last Name:				First N	lame;				Middle Int.:	
Street Address:					City/State/Zip:					
Telephone:					Email:					//
Congregation:					Congregation City/Town:					
Current Occupation:					Previo	ous pation:				10
Year of Birth:		Education:								93
Church Service Position / Years of Service (Please print legibly or type if not completed online. List no more than 5):										
Significant Community Service (Please print legibly or type if not completed online. List no more than 3):										
In 100 words or less, describe your unique talents that you could contribute to the position(s) of interest above. (Please print legibly or type if not completed online.)										
Are you willing and able to fulfill the duties of this position?Yes, with the help of God										

The Nominations form must be completed by <u>April 24th, 2023</u> to be included in the Assembly packet. Any received after that date (up until 4PM Monday, April 24th, 2023) will be uploaded digitally at the Assembly.

Please send completed form with picture to the Allegheny Synod, ELCA, Attention: Pr. Drew McCaffery, Nominations Chair, 701 Quail Avenue., Altoona, PA 126602 or email to via email to pastordrew0604@gmail.com with Attention: Pr. Drew McCaffery, Nominations Chair.

St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

1407 Eighth Avenue Altoona, PA 16602

814-944-6835

stjamesaltoona@gmail.com www.stjamesaltoona.org





Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.