

St. James Evangelical **Lutheran Church December 18, 2022** 4th Sunday of Advent

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: Watchman, Tell Us of The Night . arr. Seth Bingham (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

*GATHERING SONG: NEXT PAGE Fling Wide the Door

ELW 259

Fling Wide the Door



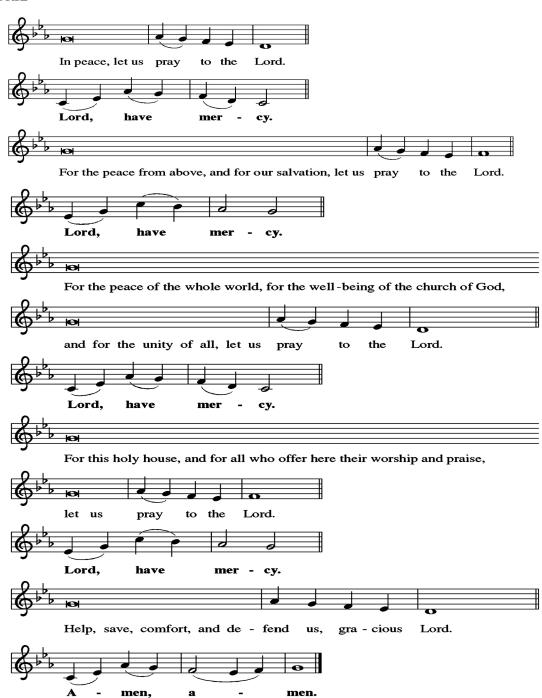
Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943 Music: MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR, J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704; arr. hymnal version Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Wörslup*, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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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.



Glory to God



*PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

* LIGHTING OF 4TH ADVENT CANDLE

*Candle Lighting Hymn

People Look East

ELW 248





Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965
Music: BESANÇON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934
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We Listen to the Word

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16

A reading from Isaiah.

¹⁰The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

The word of the Lord Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.

³Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

¹⁷Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.

¹⁹Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

Second Reading:

Romans 1:1-7

A reading from Romans.

¹Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





*GOSPEL: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Matthew 1:18-25



¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.



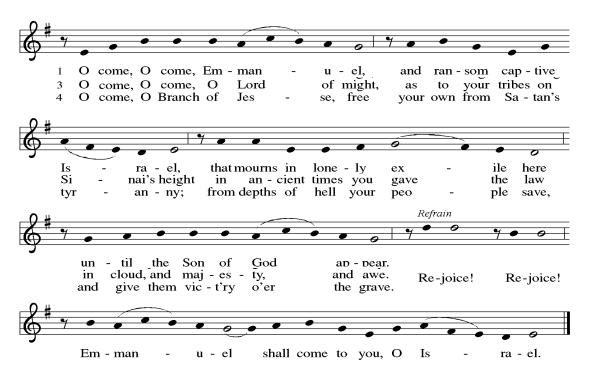
Sermon

We Respond to the Word

*Hymn of the Day:

ELW 257

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



- O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
 O Sun of justice, now draw near.
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadow put to flight. Refrain
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one: refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*

Text: Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent. Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

*Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate. was crucified, died, and was buried: he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body. and the life everlasting. 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.

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 our shepherd, let your Spirit move with power throughout the church. Give discernment and wisdom to our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders. Take away our fear, so that we serve and love, confident that you are guiding us. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God our source, awaken us to the beauty of the earth and the marvelous variety of life. Unite humankind in repairing and caring for your creation. Protect creatures and habitats in peril due to rising seas and warming temperatures. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God our vision, raise up leaders in every nation who dream of freedom and justice for all people. We pray for the work of international organizations that promote peace and human rights, especially Amnesty International (others may be named). God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God our helper, come to the aid of all who cry out to you. Shelter migrants, refugees, and those fleeing war and famine. Bring relief to individuals and families experiencing hunger, homelessness, or impoverishment. Comfort any who are isolated or lonely. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God our Emmanuel, you are with us in our life together. We give you thanks for gathering us in worship and fellowship, and we remember those who cannot be present. Watch over those who travel. Heal the sick and speed their recovery (*especially*). God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God our hope, you bring life out of death, and you promise to be our God forever. Shine upon the faithful who now rest in the fulfillment of your promise and bring us also into your blessed reign of peace. 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.

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

*The Lord's Prayer

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.

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

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

ELW 311

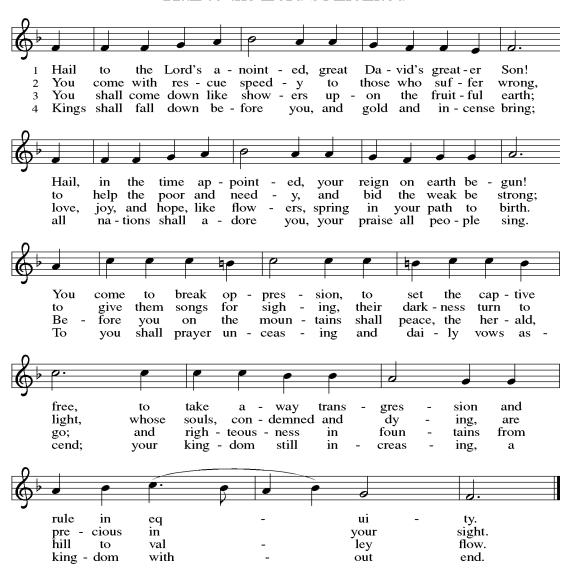
*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Recessional: He Whom Shepherds Once Came Praising Arr. Healy Willan

Hail to the Lord's Anointed



Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt. Music: FREUT EUCH, IHR LIEBEN, Leonhart Schröter, 1540–1602



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:

BULLETIN DEADLINE
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
NO SERVICES CHRISTMAS DAY
UN DECORATE CHURCH
SWEETS AND TREATS
POTLUCK
COUNCIL MEETING

DEC 20 10:30AM DEC 24 8 PM DEC 25 JAN 7 10 AM MAR 5 10 AM MAR 12 12 PM MAR 19 12 PM



Our Prayer List:

Tim SurkovichDebbie ThomasJeff BickelSteve LigthnerCarol WeaverDonna FosterJean BickelDonna WiltCarolyn FeatherBill DambeckJudy DambeckBill Wilt

(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.





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 pro-

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. TermLay Female (1)Lay Male (1)Clergy – Male or Female (1)		La	Discipline – 6 Yr. Tem: Lay Female (1) Clergy Male (1)								
Synod Council-2 Yr. Term Lay Male (1)* Youth-Age 15-18 (1)		La	Discipline – 5 Yr. Tem: Lay Female (1)* Clergy Female (2)						INSERT DIGITAL PHOHERE		
Consultation – 6 Yr. Term: Lay Female (1)			Discipline – 4 Yr. Term: Lay Male (1)*								
Consultation – 5 Yr. Term: Clergy – Male (1)*			Mission Endowment Fund Committee:3 Yr. Term (2) Clergy/Lay – Male or Female								
Consultation – 3 Yr. Term: Clergy Female (1)*		200	*Terms have been adjusted due to no fulfillments in previous assembly election(s)								
	-									9/2	
Last Name:				lame:	ne:		Middle Int.:		1		
Street Address:					City/State/Zip:						
Telephone:					Email:				4		
Congregation:					Congregation City/Town:						
Current Occupation:					Previo Occu	ous pation:					
Year of Birth:				17				68			
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.