

Kirchenblatt December 2022

(Parish Newsletter)

St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church 1407 Eighth Avenue Altoona, PA 16602



Join us for Worship Sundays at 10:45 am

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:								
Vice Pastor's Report	2-3	Prayer List	4	WELCA	12-13			
Financials	4	Daily Readings	5-8	Committee List	20			
Birthdays	4	Announcements	9-19					

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

OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY-THURSDAY 9 AM-1PM

EMAIL: STJAMESALTOONA@GMAIL.COM

WEBSITE: WWW.STJAMESALTOONA.ORG

PHONE: 814-944-6835

MISSION STATEMENT:

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

PAGE 2



Vice Pastor's Musing December 2022

Dear Members of Saint James,

Hello Friends, my name is Pastor Drew McCaffery. Some of you may recognize me from Bethany Lutheran (your neighbor on 3rd Ave) or from the brief times I have be at St James for other assorted events. For the next extended period of time, I will be serving as a Covenant Pastor. For those unsure what this title means, it means that I will be joining you for worship, council meetings, and providing assorted pastoral care duties for our members. My first official Sunday, in person will be on December 4th and I hope to be able to meet many of you. My hope during this time is to get to meet you, learn some of your history with St James, and listen to where the Holy Spirit continues to call us. I will be doing this also as an extension of my duties and responsibilities at Bethany Lutheran, hopefully this will give some opportunities for future partnerships.

For those wanting to know at little about me, I have been in the Altoona area since Summer of 2015 when I was called to serve with Bethany Lutheran. I served for a year and half with the people of Simpson Temple United Parish until they prayerfully transitioned their ministry to other ventures in 2021. My wife, Pastor Amanda McCaffery, currently serves at St Luke's Lutheran Church in Roaring Spring and we have a 14 year old fur baby named Levi (may also go by the name "Vicar Levi" or other names depending on the story).

PAGE 3 KIRCHENBLATT

Joining St James at this point in the year is a unique time as we are in the midst of preparing. Not only is there a sense of preparing for what this future partnership will become but we are also preparing for Christmas Eve, in what we call a Season of Advent. We do this preparing in a variety of ways: decorating, planning, attending, and being present. I especially highlight the being present part because it is easy for us to plan and hyperfocus on the event we are planning for. Yes, we plan for Christmas but we become so focused on trying to make the event of Christmas perfect, we tend to forget the why we are celebrating Christmas or even the journey we experienced arriving to Christmas. Hopefully, in these next couple of weeks, we not only partake in all the festivities and planning for Christmas but we become present on what this time means and who we are celebrating with because this may bring a richness to the holiday we may never have expected. I look forward to experiences we can share together this Christmas!

Peace ><>

Pastor Drew



Contribution & Attendance Summary September 2021

Contributions \$1,390.94 Average Weekly Attendance: 13

September 2022

Contributions \$925.00 Average Weekly Attendance: 10

INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY

September 1, 2022 - September 30, 2022

INCOME

Bank Interest	\$0.00
Contributions	
General	\$925.00
Designated	\$0.00
Special	\$0.00
Other Income	\$4,000.00
	\$4,925.00

EXPENSES

Pastoral Administration	\$250.00
Worship & Music	\$561.62
Office	\$1,636.84
Custodial & Property	\$840.12
Uncategorized	\$47.00



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.)

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

Those serving in our military

Allegheny Lutheran Home:

Janet Kauffman

Homewood

\$3.365.28

Sylvia Malsatzki

In their own homes:

Deborah Manbeck



Dec 1—Isaiah 7:10-8:8, Psalm 34

Lord Jesus, we implore You to hear our prayers and lighten the darkness of our hearts, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Dec 2—Isaiah 8:9-9:7, Psalm 119:105-112

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and quickly lift us out of the sins that weigh us down; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Dec 3—1 Peter 5, Psalm 55:16-23

Eternal Savior, help us stand firm against every assault of Satan, and enable us always to do Your will; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Dec 4-2 Peter 1:1-21, Psalm 145:1-9

O Lord Jesus, confirm our faith so that we may confess You as true God and Lord and live in obedience to Your commands, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Dec 5—Isaiah 11-12, Psalm 49:12-15

O God, grant that we may be preserved from every sin and evil; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Dec 6—2 Peter 3, Psalm 56:5-11, 13

Almighty God, comfort us with the assurance of Your Word against temptations of the world, the devil, and our sinful nature, for You live and reign now and forever. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Dec 7—1 John 1-2:14, Psalm 25:1-7

Lord Jesus, aid us in both teaching and learning this, Your Gospel, now and into eternity, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Dec 8—Isaiah 24:14-25:12, Psalm 11

Heavenly Father, deliver us from evil and aid us so that we may endure to the end of this life of struggle; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Dec 9—1 John 3:1-10, Psalm 17:6-15

Lord, grant Your people grace to withstand the temptations of the devil and, with pure hearts and minds, follow You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Dec 10—1 John 4, Psalm 86:1-7

O God, give us such perfect love of You and our neighbor that all fear may be cast out of our hearts and we may with confidence greet You on the Day of Judgment; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.

Dec 11—Isaiah 28:14-29. Psalm 5:1-8

Lord Jesus Christ, grant us steadfastness in Your Word and Sacraments that we would trust eternally in Your death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins. Amen.

Dec 12—Jude 1:1-15. Psalm 106:1-5

Almighty God, we implore You, show Your mercy to Your humble servants that we may not be dealt with after the severity of Your judgment but according to Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Dec 13—Isaiah 29:15-30:14, Psalm 89:20-29

Lord Jesus, help Your pastors to teach us the instructions and truth found in Holy Scripture and encourage us to strive in obedience to Your instruction, empowered by Your Word and Sacraments, Amen.

Dec 14—Isaiah 30:15-26, Psalm 27:1;4-5, 11-14

Lord Jesus, continue to bring to Your Church the Good News of Your liberating death and resurrection by calling us to repentance and faith, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Dec 15—Isaiah 30:27-31:9, Psalm 146:1-7

Lord, please strengthen, guide, and aid us in our struggle in this life to seek You where You may be found; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Dec 16—Isaiah 32 Psalm 149

Heavenly Father, grant us such faith in Your goodness that we may trust in Your Word fully, for You live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Dec 17—Daniel 3:8-28, Psalm 40:1-5, 15-16

Lord Jesus, as You did for Daniel and the three young men, strengthen us to hold loosely the things of this world and cling to Your Word and the promise of the kingdom to come. Amen.

Dec 18—Revelation 6, Psalm 119:81-88

Merciful and everlasting God, grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in Jesus that we fear not the power of sin, death, and the devil; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Dec 19—Isaiah 40:1-17. Psalm 103:11-18

Lord God, by Your mercy, number us among those who have come out of the great tribulation with the seal of the living God on our foreheads and robes that have been made white in the blood of the Lamb; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Dec 20—Isaiah 40:18-41:10, Psalm 119:25-32

O God, may You encourage and strengthen all who contribute to ministry throughout Your earthly kingdom. In Jesus' name and for His sake. Amen.

Dec 21—Isaiah 42, Psalm 102:24-28

Almighty and ever-living God, grant us such faith in the justice of Jesus Christ that we may never be found wanting in Your sight; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Dec 22—Revelation 9:13-10:11, Psalm 115:1-8,11

Almighty and ever-living God, grant us so firmly to believe in Your Son, Jesus, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Dec 23—Isaiah 43:25-44:20, Psalm 39:4-8

O God, put away from us all things hurtful and give us those things that are beneficial for us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Dec 24—Isaiah 44:21-45:13, 20-25, Psalm 98:1-6, 9

O God, grant that as we joyfully receive the Lord Jesus as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Dec 25—Isaiah 49:1-18, Psalm 95

Most merciful God, grant us repentance and faith that we may be made ready for Your visitation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Dec 26—Matthew 1:18-25, Psalm 34:4-10, 19

Heavenly Father, help us abide in You through prayer, the Word, and the Sacraments through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Dec 27—Matthew 2:1-12, Psalm 72:1, 4, 10-15, 18-19

Merciful Lord Jesus, cast Your light upon Your Church that, being instructed in both Your Holy Law and Gospel, we may live lives pleasing to You, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Dec 28—Isaiah 52:11-53:10, Psalm 9:11-14

Almighty God, put to death in us all that is in conflict with Your will that our lives may bear witness to the faith we profess, for You live and reign one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Dec 29—Isaiah 55, Psalm 78:1-7

Lord God, strengthen our hearts to attend to Your Word and Sacrament among the Church where You may be found, for You live and reign one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Dec 30-Luke 1:26-38, Psalm 89:1-4, 14-18

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of our sin, for You live and reign, one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Dec 31—Luke 1:39-56, Psalm 111:1-6, 10

Eternal God, in the new year, abide among us with Your Holy Spirit that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Your Daily Prayer



St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church



1407 Eighth Avenue Altoona, PA 16602

814-944-6835



stjamesaltoona@gmail.com www.stjamesaltoona.org PAGE 9 KIRCHENBLATT

Announcements and Upcoming Events

IN THE CASE OF A PASTORAL EMERGENCY,

In the event of a Pastoral Emergency, please contact Pastor Drew McCaffery Phone: 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 Find us on Facebook to get up-to-date information.

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. ****

Deadline for the January issue of the Kirchenblatt is, Thursday, December 15.







UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

DECORATE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS
SWEETS AND TREATS
ALLEGHENY CHORALE CONCERT
BULLETIN DEADLINE
WELCA CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON
COUNCIL MEETING
BULLETIN DEADLINE
KIRCHENBLATT ARTICLE DEADLINE
BULLETIN DEADLINE
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
NO SERVICES CHRISTMAS DAY
BULLETIN DEADLINE

DEC 3 10 AM
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
DEC 27 10:30AM







NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

December 11th 12 PM

COVID Guidelines will be in effect!



Christmas Eve Service December 24th 8 PM

No Service December 25th



We will be decorating the church for Christmas on December 3rd. Information on when we will un-decorate TBD. Pizza will be provided for those who come to help. PAGE 12 KIRCHENBLATT





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!



WHERE: Altoona Perkins (Private Party Room)

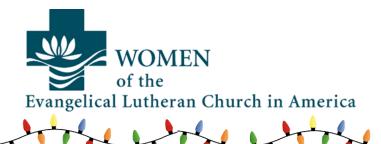
*Must register no later Dec 3rd by calling the St James church office at 944-6835, or Margaret Thatcher at 814-943-4749

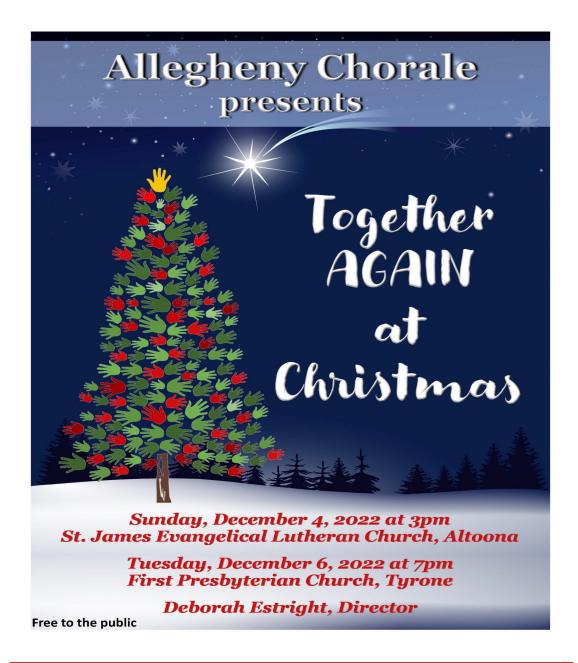
Guest Speaker: Aimee Burns, Executive Director of NAMI

Topic: Holiday Stress

This opportunity provided by THRIVENT grant.







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



SWEETS AND TREATS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH.

OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS WILL BE DECEMBER 4, 2022

* We are always looking for volunteers to sponsor Sweets and Treats. If you're interested there is a sign up sheet in the Sunday School Room. Your support is appreciated!





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 Ian 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

PAGE 17

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

5153	e (1) 1) lale or Female (1	Lay Fe	iscipline – 6 Yr. Term: Lay Female (1) Clergy Male (1) iscipline – 5 Yr. Term:							
Synod Council-2 Yr. Term Lay Male (1)* Youth-Age 15-18 (1)		Lay Fe	Lay Female (1)* Clergy Female (2)*				INSERT DIGITAL PHOHERE			
Consultation – 6 Lay Female		Discipline – 4 Yr. Term; Lay Male (1)*								
Consultation – 5 Clergy – M Consultation – 3 Y	lale (1)*		Mission Endowment Fund Committee; 3 Yr. Term (2) Clergy/Lay – Male or Female							
Clergy Fen		- 27	*Terms have been adjusted due to no fulfillments in previous assembly election(s)							
Last Name:				First N	ame:				Middle Int.:	
Street Address:					City/S	state/Zip:				
Telephone:	5				Email	t				/
Congregation:					Cong City/T	regation own:				
Current	0				Previo	ous				19
Occupation:					Occu	pation:				7
Year of Birth:		Education:								
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.

Church Council Members Mark Hoover—President Donna Wilt—Vice President Evelyn Holsinger—Secretary Ralph Grove—Treasurer Betty Boslet Dana Detwiler Donna Foster Sharon Lighner Sylvia Malsatzki

St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church Staff

Vice Pastor—Pastor Drew McCaffery Church Administrative Assistant - Tim Surkovich Organist & Choir Director - Pat McConnell Financial Secretary/Bookkeeper - Ralph Grove Custodian—Tori Gragar

Chairpersons are listed in bold at the top of each committee.

BELOW YOU WILL FIND THE COMMITTEES AS OF THIS DATE. PLEASE NOTIFY EITHER THE CHAIRMAN OR CHURCH OFFICE IF YOUR NAME DOES NOT APPEAR WHERE IT SHOULD OR APPEARS WHERE IT SHOULDN'T. ALSO, PLEASE NOTIFY US IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SERVE ON ANY OF THESE COMMITTEES.

Mutual Ministry

Shirley Manbeck Mike Savino Bill Wilt

- *Dana Detwiler
- *Donna Foster
- *Evelyn Holsinger
- *Sharon Lightner
- *Donna Wilt
- *Mike Savino
 Joe Yanke

<u>Christian Education/</u> <u>Social Ministry</u>

*Evelyn Holsinger

- *Sharon Lightner
- *Sylvia Malsatzki
- *Shirley Manbeck
- *Donná Wilt

Worship & Music

*Mark Hoover *Dana Detwiler

- *Donna Foster
- *Sharon Lightner *Sylvia Malsatzki
- Pat McConnell

Finance

*Mark Hoover

- *Betty Boslet Ralph Grove
- *Bill Wilt
- *Donna Wilt

By-Laws

*Mark Hoover

*Betty Boslet
*Mike Savino

Property *Bill Wilt

Bill Dambeck

Bob Holsinger

- *Evelyn Holsinger *Shirley Manbeck
- Pat McConnell

Stewardship/Evangelism

- *Donna Wilt
- *Dana Detwiler

* Denotes Council Member Thrivent Rep.— Robin Kessler