



# **St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church January 1, 2023 1st Sunday Of Christmas**

**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: Peggy Thatcher  
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: Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head arr. Ralph B. Hastings

*(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.*

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.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, and Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

***We Gather***

\*GATHERING SONG: Angels, from the Realms of Glory

ELW 275

**NEXT PAGE**

# Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,  
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.  
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

The musical score is written for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It features a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves, with line numbers 1 through 4 corresponding to the four voices. The score includes a main body of music and a refrain section.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4  
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

**\*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.

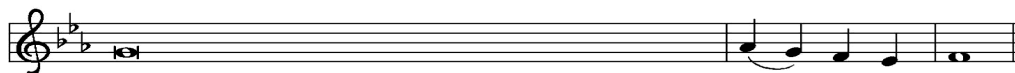
# KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



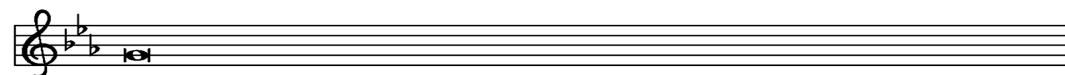
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



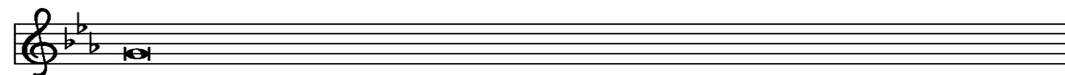
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

# Glory to God

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

**P:** Let us pray.

**Eternal Father, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

***We Listen to the Word***

**First Reading:**

**Numbers 6:22-27**

A reading from Numbers.

<sup>22</sup>The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: <sup>23</sup>Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them,  
<sup>24</sup>The LORD bless you and keep you;  
<sup>25</sup>the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;  
<sup>26</sup>the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.  
<sup>27</sup>So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**SOLO:**

**T'was In The Moon Of Wintertime**

**Bob Hench**

**PSALM**

**Psalms 8**

<sup>1</sup>O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in <sup>1</sup>all the earth!—

<sup>2</sup>**you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children; you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.**

<sup>3</sup>When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

<sup>4</sup>**what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them, human beings that you should care for them?**

<sup>5</sup>Yet you have made them little less than divine; with glory and honor you crown them.

<sup>6</sup>**You have made them rule over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet:**

<sup>7</sup>all flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts of the field,

<sup>8</sup>**the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.**

<sup>9</sup>O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

## Second Reading:

**Galatians 4:4-7**

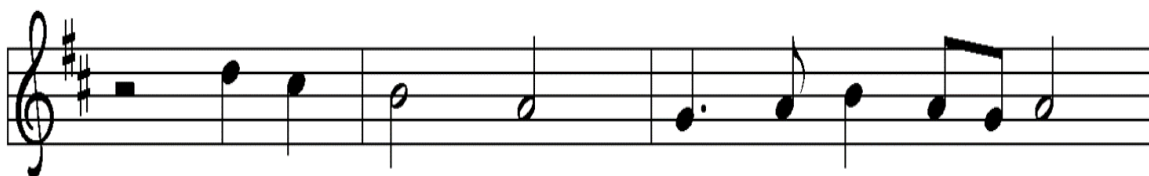
A reading from Galatians.

<sup>4</sup>When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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:

Luke 2:15-21

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.



<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. <sup>21</sup>After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

## The Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon



# *We Respond to the Word*

\*Hymn of the Day:

ELW 282

## It Came upon the Midnight Clear

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The melody is carried by the Soprano and Alto parts, with the Tenor and Bass parts providing harmonic support. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves, with line numbers 1 through 4 indicating the different parts of the hymn.

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,  
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,  
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,  
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,

from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.  
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:  
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."  
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,  
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;  
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,

The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!  
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

## **\*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

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

*A brief silence.*

Holy God, you have given the church the holy name of Jesus, and in him we are your beloved children. Unite us in mission through the power of his Spirit. Make us worthy of the name we bear, the name in which we pray. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Renewing God, restore your glory to the earth. Awaken humanity to our kinship with all living things that depend on your provision. Teach us to care for the earth and safeguard its treasures for those who come after us. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Peacemaking God, reconcile the nations. Lead those in conflict into negotiation, especially in areas of religious or ethnic strife (*regions and situations may be named*). End acts of aggression and violence carried out in your name. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Delivering God, rescue our siblings in any danger, especially in communities where disaster and disease threaten (*especially*). Move those in authority to respond with speed and compassion. We pray for the safety of first responders, health care workers, and all who protect us. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Healing God, raise up any who are bowed down with illness or sorrow. Deepen our care and concern for one another. We lift to you all who are undergoing transition in relationships, occupation, living situation, or health condition (*especially*). God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Saving God, redeem us and grant us eternal peace. We give thanks for the faithful departed who now rest in your undying love, made known to us in Jesus our Emmanuel. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

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:                      Go Tell it on the Mountain                      ELW 290  
*NEXT PAGE*

\*Dismissal

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

**C: Thanks be to God!**

Recessional:                      Resonet in Laudibus                      arr. G. Winston Cassler

# Go Tell It on the Mountain

*Refrain*



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;



*Refrain*



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.



Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.  
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

# 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

### Our Prayer List:

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

Janet Kauffman

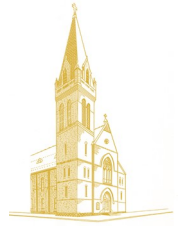
### **In their own homes:**

Deborah Manbeck



## Worship Guidelines

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



## **UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS:**

**UN DECORATE CHURCH  
SWEETS AND TREATS  
POTLUCK  
COUNCIL MEETING**

**JAN 7 10 AM  
MAR 5 10 AM  
MAR 12 12 PM  
MAR 19 12 PM**



# WHAT'S HAPPENING!!



## NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

March 19, 2023



## SWEETS AND TREATS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH.

OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS  
WILL BE

March 5, 2023

\* 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!



## The next Potluck Dinner is

March 12, 2023





## *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)

*3 Year Term:* 1 Lay Female , 1 Lay Male, 1 Clergy

### Discipline Committee

*4 Year Term:* 1 Lay Male

*5 Year Term:* 1 Lay Female , 2 Clergy Female

*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](mailto: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

June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## NOMINATIONS FORM

Please "X" below all positions of interest. (Number) = Number Elected for that position

<u>Synod Council - 3 Yr. Term</u> ____ Lay Female (1) ____ Lay Male (1) ____ Clergy - Male or Female (1)  <u>Synod Council-2 Yr. Term</u> ____ Lay Male (1)* ____ Youth-Age 15-18 (1)  <u>Consultation - 6 Yr. Term:</u> ____ Lay Female (1)  <u>Consultation - 5 Yr. Term:</u> ____ Clergy - Male (1)*  <u>Consultation - 3 Yr. Term:</u> ____ Clergy Female (1)*	<u>Discipline - 6 Yr. Term:</u> ____ Lay Female (1) ____ Clergy Male (1)  <u>Discipline - 5 Yr. Term:</u> ____ Lay Female (1)* ____ Clergy Female (2)*  <u>Discipline - 4 Yr. Term:</u> ____ Lay Male (1)*  <u>Mission Endowment Fund Committee:</u> ____ 3 Yr. Term (2) Clergy/Lay - Male or Female  <i>*Terms have been adjusted due to no fulfillments in previous assembly election(s)</i>	<b>INSERT DIGITAL PHOTO HERE</b>

Last Name:			First Name:			Middle Int.:	
Street Address:				City/State/Zip:			
Telephone:				Email:			
Congregation:				Congregation			
Current Occupation:				Previous Occupation:			
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 **April 24th, 2023** 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](mailto: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](mailto:stjamesaltoona@gmail.com)**  
**[www.stjamesaltoona.org](http://www.stjamesaltoona.org)**



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.