

St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church February 26, 2023 **Ist Sunday** in Lent

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 quest book.

Vice Pastor: Pastor Drew McCaffrey 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

(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: O Lord, throughout These Forty Days *NEXT PAGE*

ELW 319

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days



Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930 Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.

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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.

KYRIE



*PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Let us pray.

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

We Listen to the Word

First Reading:

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

A reading from Genesis.

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

^{3:1}Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

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

PSALM

¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

²Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!

³While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

⁴For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.

⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

¹⁰Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Second Reading:

A reading from Romans.

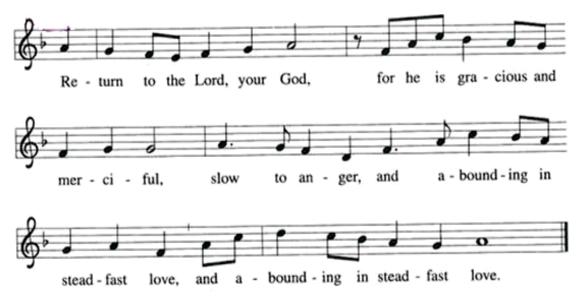
¹²Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—¹³sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

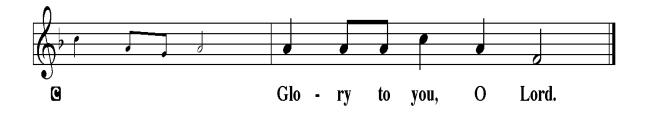
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.





¹Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,'

and 'On their hands they will bear you up,

so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written," 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,

and serve only him.' "

¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon

*Hymn of the Day:

ELW 802

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus



Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–1681; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, alt. Music: LASSET UNS MIT JESU ZIEHEN, Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent. Τεxt © 1978 Latheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortness.

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*Creed

I believe in God, the Father almightv. 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

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

You alone are God. Sustain your church in times of wilderness. Give vision and wisdom to bishops, their staff, and all entrusted with the ministry of administration (*especially*). Counsel all who faithfully lead your people into the future. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You create verdant gardens and expansive deserts. Tend to the needs of every living creature. Bless those who work in fields and orchards (*local sources of food and food distributors may be named*), that the world is nourished by the fruits of their labor. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You know our temptations. Sustain those who govern and legislate. Instill in them a sense of your justice and righteousness, that equity and peace would pervade all the regions and nations of the world. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You are a hiding place for all in distress. Draw near to exiles, and accompany all refugees and immigrants, especially children who travel alone. In times of trouble, trauma, or illness, surround your people with your steadfast love (*especially*). Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You offer abundance to all. Bless the ministries of hospitality in this place. Care for those who tend to the needs of others, especially worship greeters, coffee hour hosts, and nursery attendants (*other ministries of care and hospitality may be named*). Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You alone are God. We praise you for the faithful departed in every age. Unite our prayers with theirs, until our wilderness journey is complete, and we rest in you. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **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:	Bless Now, O God, the Journey	ELW 326
NEXT PAGE		

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Recessional



Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993 Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent. Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 <u>stjamesaltoona@gmail.com</u> The church's website is <u>www.stjamesaltoona.org</u> On Facebook—St. James Lutheran Church—Altoona. PA

Our Prayer List:

Tim Surkovich Staff Sgt John Hiles Carolyn Feather Debbie Thomas Donna Foster Bill Dambeck Jeff Bickel Jean Bickel Judy Dambeck

Steve Ligthner Donna Wilt 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:

BIBLE STUDY @ BETHANY MAR 1 PM LENTEN SERIES @ BETHANY **MAR 1 7 PM** SWEETS AND TREATS **MAR 5 10 AM BIBLE STUDY @ BETHANY MAR 8 1 PM** LENTEN SERIES @ BETHANY **MAR 8 7 PM** POTLUCK **MAR 12 12 PM MAR 12 2 PM** LENTEN CONCERT @ BETHANY **BIBLE STUDY @ BETHANY MAR 15 1 PM KIRCHENBLATT ARTICLE DEADLINE MAR 15 12 PM** LENTEN SERIES @ BETHANY **MAR 15 7 PM COUNCIL MEETING MAR 19 12 PM BIBLE STUDY @ BETHANY MAR 22 1 PM** LENTEN SERIES @ BETHANY **MAR 22 7 PM BIBLE STUDY @ BETHANY MAR 29 1 PM** LENTEN SERIES @ BETHANY **MAR 29 7 PM BIBLE STUDY @BETHANY APR 5 1 PM** LENTEN SERIES @ BETHANY **APR 5 7 PM MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP SERVICE APR 6 7PM GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP SERVICE APR 7 2 PM** ALLEGHENY CHORALE CONCERT **APR 30 3 PM**





NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

March 19, 2023



Church

Tonmeil

SWEETS AND TREATS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH.

OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS WILL BE

March 5, 2023 Provided by Jean Bickel

* 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

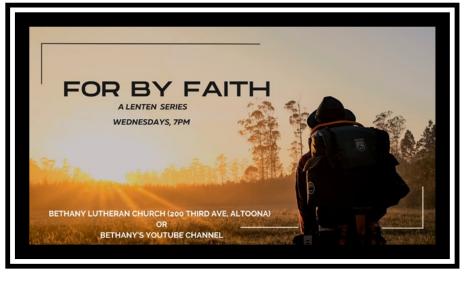


Bible Study News

As we continue our journey of faith, we continue with diving deeper into our faith through our two bible study opportunities as we join with our friends at Bethany Lutheran.

Wednesday Bible Study (Every Wednesday at 1pm in the Basement Fellowship Hall at Bethany Lutheran): We are on the final few chapters of Romans which has provided us will wonderful conversations on what is seen as one of the more powerful books of the New Testament (outside of the Gospels, of course). We are taking a minor Christmas break but returning on January 11th to finish our series on Romans. Once Romans if completed, we are planning to start a study on the Gospel of John. Keep an eye out for those details

Faith on Tap (1st & 3rd Tuesday at Marzoni's in Greenwood, 6pm): Faith on Tap is a series in which we gather for a time of fellowship, food, and time of diving deeper into our faith. These series can range from specific series in the Bible to a book study. Our group will be returning on February 7th with a BRAND NEW STUDY as we will begin a series on Love. In Ancient Greek, love is expands into 4 different categories with their own meaning. For the months of February and March, we will dive deeper into these 4 loves and how they may help us express the gift of love for those around us. See you at Marzoni's!



Lenten Series: For By Faith

What is faith? As we read from Hebrews 11, we understand it this way, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the convictions of things not seen."

During this Lenten series, we will share in the journey of faith from various figures in the Bible while also considering our own journey of faith. Our friends at Bethany Lutheran are inviting us to join in this dinner church style worship where we will share in a meal, have discussions, and consider our own journey of faith as we move towards the cross. These events will take place on Wednesday evenings at 7pm in Bethany's basement. You are welcome to park in the parking lot (at the corner of 2^{nd} St & 4^{th} Ave) and then enter through the basement door to the fellowship hall.

For those who will be unable to join us physically, due to whatever reason, you are invited join via Bethany's Youtube channel (search Bethany Lutheran-Altoona in the search bar) where there will be a reflection from Pastor Drew, along with some reflection questions at 7pm. As we begin this Lenten journey may we feel the presence of Christ as we gather near the cross.

The Contemporary Christian Trio 3 Four One, known for its angelic harmonies, will present a Freewill Offering Lenten Concert on Sunday March 12 at Bethany Lutheran at 2 PM. To help you on your Lenten journey come and be inspired through the Lenten music performed in a way only 3 Four One can. You'll hear familiar Lenten music and some of 3 Four One's original music. 3 Four One will also provide the music for the 9 AM Worship Service.



Lenten Concert

March 12, 2023 2:00 PM

Bethany Lutheran Church Altoona, PA

Freewill Offering



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

Allegheny Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Synod Assembly Nominations

Where is the Holy Spirit calling you?

Prayerfully consider how you can serve your Synod

Synod Council	Discipline Committee		
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		
	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)

Thirty-Fifth Annual Allegheny Synod Assembly NOM

NOMINATIONS FORM

June 17th, 2023 P

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)	Discipline – 6 Yr. Term: Lay Female (1) Clergy Male (1)	
Synod Council-2 Yr. Term Lay Male (1)* Youth-Age 15-18 (1)	Discipline – 5 Yr. Term: Lay Female (1)* Clergy Female (2)*	INSERT DIGITAL
Consultation – 6 Yr. Term: Lay Female (1)	Discipline – 4 Yr. Term: Lay Male (1)*	PHOHERE
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)*	*Terms have been adjusted due to no fulfillments in previous assembly election(s)	

Last Name:		First Name:		Middle Int.:			
Street Address:		City/	State/Zip:				
Telephone:		Ema	il:				
Congregation:			Congregation City/Town:				
Current Occupation:		Prev					
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.

St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.