

St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church February 12, 2023 6th Sunday **After Epiphany** 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: NEXT PAGE Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling



Text: Timothy Rees, 1874–1939, alt. Music: IN BABILONE, Oude en Nieuwe Hollantse Boerenlities en Contradansen, 1710; arr. Julius Röntgen, 1855–1932

*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



Glory to God



*PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Let us pray.

O God, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

We Listen to the Word

First Reading:

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

A reading from Deuteronomy.

[Moses said to the people:] ¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

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

PSALM

¹Happy are they whose way is blameless, who follow the teaching of the LORD!

²Happy are they who observe your decrees and seek you with all their hearts,

³who never do any wrong, but always walk in your ways.

⁴You laid down your commandments, that we should fully keep them.

⁵Oh, that my ways were made so direct that I might keep your statutes!

⁶Then I should not be put to shame, when I regard all your commandments.

⁷I will thank you with a true heart, when I have learned your righteous judgments.

⁸I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me.

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

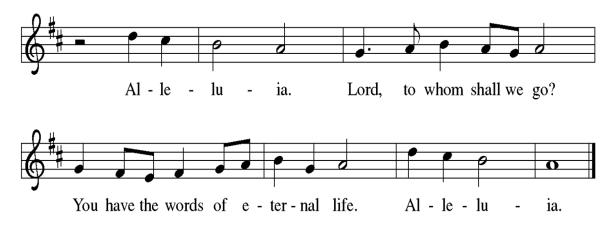
A reading from 1 Corinthians.

¹Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, ³for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? ⁴For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human?

⁵What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. ⁹For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

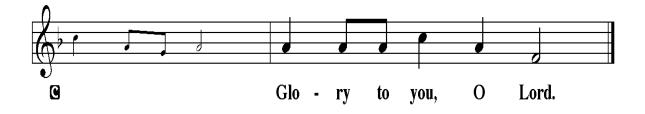
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Matthew 5:21-37



[Jesus said to the disciples:] ²¹"You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder'; and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' ²²But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.

²⁵Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

²⁷"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' ²⁸But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

³¹"It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' ³²But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

³³"Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.' ³⁴But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one."

The Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon

*Hymn of the Day:

ELW 790

Day by Day



Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Robert Leaf, 1936–2005 Music: BLOTT EN DAG, Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813–1882 Τεxt © 1992 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

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Inspire your church that it may be a sign of life throughout the world. From the exploration of faith with children and new believers to missionaries and bishops, shape lives of faithfulness, so that all find abundant life in your ways. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Nourish your creation. Accompany all who plant and water. Bless the work of farmers; provide for subsistence farmers facing drought and climate change. Guide the work of agricultural scientists toward sustainable ways to feed the world. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Give growth where there seems to be no hope for life. In nations and regions where reconciliation seems impossible (*especially*), empower peacemakers with your Spirit. Where death holds sway through violence, disease, and hunger, equip relief workers to bring hope. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Nurture all in need (*especially*). Bring healing to all who experience trauma caused by systems of injustice and destructive relationships. Give courage to those struggling to repent and those seeking reconciliation. Sustain all who work for restoration (*local restorative efforts may be named*). Merciful God, **receive our praver.**

Encourage this congregation. Call us to a common purpose and keep us from quarrelling. Turn our hearts toward you and guide our leaders, so that our choices may be lifegiving for all. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Thanks be to you for the lives of all who have died in Christ. Teach us to follow them in your ways and gather us with them into the promise of eternal life with you. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

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:	O Savior, Precious Savior	ELW 820
NEXT PAGE		

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Recessional

O Savior, Precious Savior



Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879 Music: ANGEL'S STORY, Arthur H. Mann, 1850–1929

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 Carol Weaver 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:

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE FEB 22 12 PM **BIBLE STUDY @ BETHANY** MAR 1 PM LENTEN SERIES @ BETHANY **MAR 17 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 MAR 22 1 PM BIBLE STUDY @ BETHANY** 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!



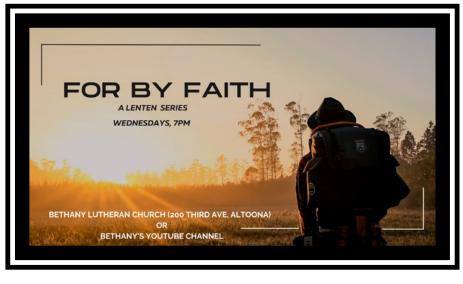
Ash Wednesday-February 22nd at 12 pm

As we prepare for the Lenten journey to the cross, we begin with the mark of ashes. These ashes remind us, we return to dust as we came from dust. I think by placing ashes in the sign of the cross, we are reminded outwardly of the sins which Jesus takes to the cross. It is at the cross, our sins (which

vary greatly person to person) die in Jesus's final moments. Not only does Ash Wednesday start the season of Lent, but it serves as a reminder to us of our ongoing commitment to the implications of the Resurrection in our own lives. This implication leads to our death in which we will be reborn through the Resurrection of Christ. The cross of ash on individual's heads serves as that visual reminder.

Join us on February 22nd at *insert worship time for the beginning of our journey to the cross. Pastor Drew will be hosting "Ashes to Go" at Greenbean Coffee House at 715 6th Ave from 7am-10am. If this time does not work for you or if you are unable to come to the evening service, please let Pastor Drew know and we can figure out a separate time. We pray your journey in Lent this year, will be a journey which you experience the cross in a new way.





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

amp

March 12, 2023 2:00 PM

Bethany Lutheran Church Altoona, PA

Freewill Offering



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: Church Service Position	Education: Years of Service (Please pl	int 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.