

## St. James Evangelical **Lutheran Church February 19, 2023 Transfiguration of** The Lord Communion

**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 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.

If you cannot read the hymns, you can turn to the hymn Announcements: 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: Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

#### Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: RATISBON, J. G. Werner, Choralbuch, 1815

#### \*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.



#### \*CANTICLE OF PRAISE





#### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Let us pray.

O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through 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: Exodus 24:12-18

A reading from Exodus.

<sup>12</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." <sup>13</sup>So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. <sup>14</sup>To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."

<sup>15</sup>Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. <sup>16</sup>The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. <sup>17</sup>Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. <sup>18</sup>Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

The word of the Lord Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 2

- <sup>1</sup>Why are the nations in an uproar? Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?
- <sup>2</sup>Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot together, against the LORD and against the LORD's anointed?
- <sup>3</sup>"Let us break their yoke," they say; "let us cast off their bonds from us."
- <sup>4</sup>God whose throne is in heaven is laughing; the LORD holds them in derision.
- <sup>5</sup>Then in wrath God speaks to them, and in rage fills them with terror.
- <sup>6</sup>"As for me, I have anointed my king upon Zion, my holy mountain."
- <sup>7</sup>Let me announce the decree of the LORD, who said to me, "You are my son; this day have I begotten you.
- <sup>8</sup>Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance and the ends of the earth for your possession.
- <sup>9</sup>You shall crush them with an iron rod and shatter them like a piece of pottery."
- <sup>10</sup>And now, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth.
- <sup>11</sup>Submit to the LORD with fear, and with trembling bow in worship;
- <sup>12</sup>lest the LORD be angry, and you perish in a sudden blaze of wrath. Happy are all who take refuge in God!

#### **Second Reading:**

2 Peter 1:16-21

A reading from 2 Peter.

<sup>16</sup>For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup>For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." <sup>18</sup>We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

<sup>19</sup>So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. <sup>20</sup>First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, <sup>21</sup>because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

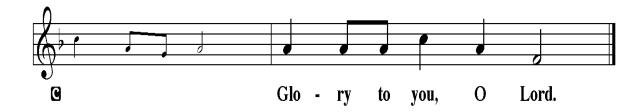
#### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





\*GOSPEL: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Matthew 17:1-9



<sup>1</sup>Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. <sup>2</sup>And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. <sup>3</sup>Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. <sup>4</sup>Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>5</sup>While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" <sup>6</sup>When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. <sup>7</sup>But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." <sup>8</sup>And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

<sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

#### The Gospel of the Lord.



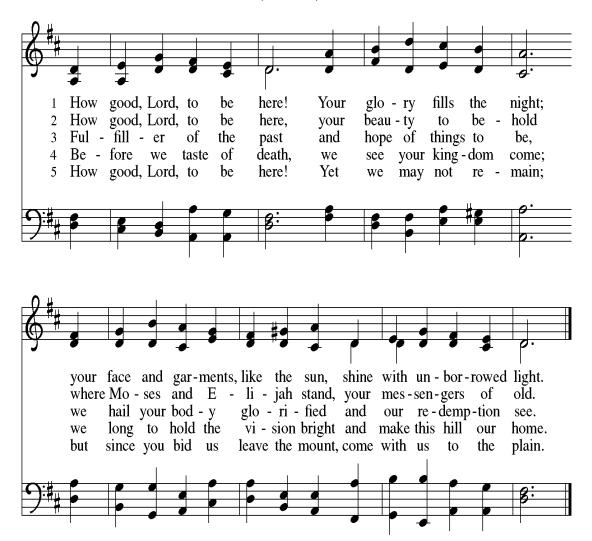
#### Sermon

#### We Respond to the Word

\*Hymn of the Day:

**ELW 315** 

### How Good, Lord, to Be Here!



Text: Joseph A. Robinson, 1858-1933, alt.

Music: POTSDAM, W. Mercer, The Church Psalter and Hymn Book, 1854

#### \*Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God. begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven. was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate: he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures: he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

and his kingdom will have no end.

#### **Prayers of Intercession**

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

#### A brief silence.

Embolden your church as it witnesses to the majesty and mercy of your Son. Equip lay preachers, deacons, and pastors. Move us to share our stories of your faithfulness and forgiveness; may our lives proclaim your greatness. Merciful God.

#### receive our prayer.

Dwell with your whole creation, from the tallest mountain peak to the deepest valley. Bless the work of conservation organizations and protect vital habitats (*locally threatened waters or lands may be named*). Support the work of disaster relief agencies around the world. Merciful God,

#### receive our prayer.

Guide and give wisdom to all in authority: our mayor (name) and local leaders, our governor (*name*) and state legislators, our president (*name*) and national legislators. Bring freedom and justice to all nations. Merciful God,

#### receive our prayer.

Give shelter to those lacking safe homes. Spur communities to work for fair housing for all. Protect our neighbors whose dwellings do not keep out dangerous cold or heat; accompany with your touch those who are homebound, sick, or isolated (*especially*). Merciful God,

#### receive our prayer.

Make us eager to receive your Word in scripture. Help us recognize Jesus' voice in the needs of our neighbors; make us confident to follow the way of the cross. Merciful God,

#### receive our prayer.

#### Here other intercessions may be offered.

Receive our thanksgiving for the holy ones who have guided us in faithfulness and gathered even the unlikely as your people. With our forebears in faith and all who have hoped in you, teach us to wait with courage until the promised day dawns. 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.

- \*Sharing of the Peace
- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C And also with you.

## We Offer Our Gifts

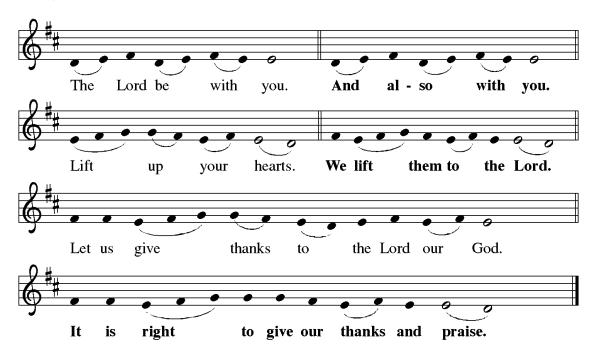
#### \*Offering Prayer:

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.

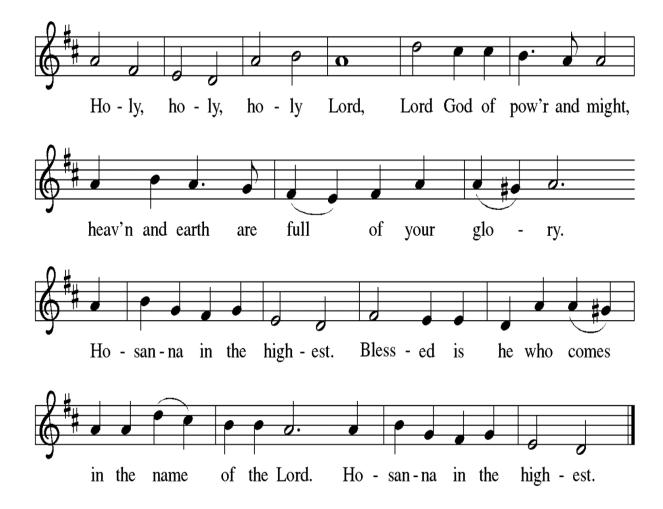
#### We Share the Feast

#### \*Holy Communion



**P:** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who, sharing our life, lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to your own brilliant light. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Holy, Holy, Holy



#### \*Thanksgiving at the Table

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we might receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after the supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

For as often as we eat this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

\*The Lord's Prayer

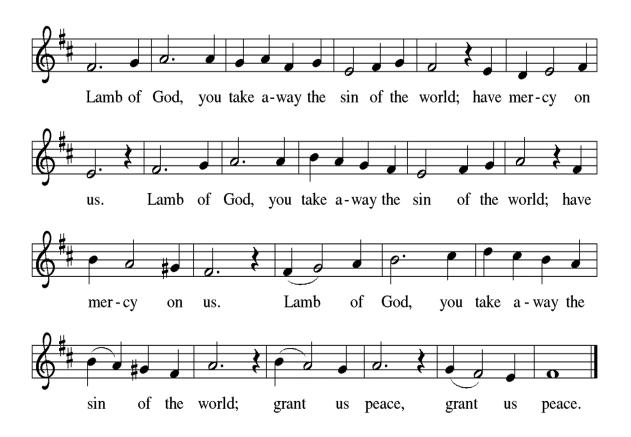
Lord remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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.

#### \*Invitation to Communion

P: Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as you once revealed yourself to your disciples.

#### Lamb of God



Communion Distribution—The Communion cups are opened at this time. Remove the Communion wafer from the cup—**P**: Body of Christ given for you.

Remove wrapper from Wine cup—**P**: Blood of Christ shed for you.

#### \*Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

#### \*Song after Communion:



Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



#### \*Prayer after Communion

**P:** Let us pray.

Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you.

C: 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

**Beautiful Savior** 

**ELW 838** 

\*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Recessional:

#### **Beautiful Savior**



Text: Gesangbuch, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904 Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

# 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 www.stjamesaltoona.org

On Facebook—St. James Lutheran Church—Altoona, PA

#### **Our Prayer List:**

Tim SurkovichDebbie ThomasJeff BickelSteve LigthnerStaff Sgt John HilesDonna 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.







### **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 87 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 157 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 57 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



# 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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!



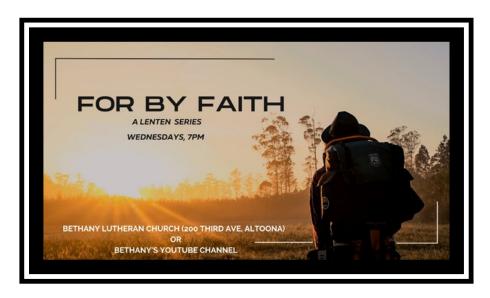
# Ash Wednesday-February 22nd at 12 pm

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 12 PM for the beginning of our journey to the cross. Pastor Drew will be hosting "Ashes to Go" at Greenbean Coffee House at 715 6<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>nd</sup> St & 4<sup>th</sup> 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.





# St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.