



Kirchenblatt April 2023

(Parish Newsletter)



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

Join us for Worship Sundays at 10:45 am

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**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

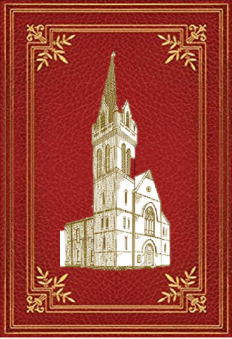
EMAIL: STJAMESALTOONA@GMAIL.COM

WEBSITE: WWW.STJAMESALTOONA.ORG

PHONE: 814-944-6835

MISSION STATEMENT:

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



Vice Pastor's Report April 2023

Pastor's April Musings *Why Holy Week?*

Dear Members of Saint James,

I am asked this question very often and to be honest, it is a good one. What is the point of going to what will be additional services (Maundy Thursday & Good Friday) because we know Jesus died and eventually wasn't found in the tomb on Easter Sunday? I hear the story on Palm/Passion Sunday and will then just come back on Easter Sunday, it feels like too much.

Why I won't disagree with someone for choosing to not attend these additional services but there is just some indescribable when it comes to Holy Week. Not only do we get to experience Jesus's time in Jerusalem in a way which is much different than a typical Sunday Worship service, but sometimes these services enlighten us in ways we never have imagined before. As we gather stripping the altar in hearing the words from Psalm 22 (My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.) to see a blank altar which had flowers, candles, and communion ware just moments prior sends chills down your spine as you consider how Jesus was stripped of his freedom and humanity when he was arrested. Gathering in the midst of darkness and hearing Jesus say "it is finished" on Good Friday has us aching at the question of "WHY IS THIS GOOD?!?!?!?" As I write this newsletter, preparing for this special week, I am literally smiling and having chills for what this experience will be like for myself and hopefully others.

I consider what this week means for many of us. For some of us, we have been dealing with 40 days of despair (not saying Lent is despairing, but it calls us to reflect on the sin and sorrow within our lives). Some of us may be in the midst of struggle (hospitalizations, frustrations of the world, upset that your March Madness bracket became a bust after the 1st round, or whatever you are dealing with as you read this letter). Holy Week is a time where we gather together and get knee deep in the story of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. This is a story which we don't just talk about but it is an experience which we get to take part in for one week which is the center of our faith. While I could continue telling why you should be at these services, but I think that downplays why we come. Instead, I invite you to partake in what is one of the greatest weeks of our faith. Join me in how we gather for one of the most powerful weeks in history, which will change the world forever. If I do not see you for any of our services at Bethany, I pray you do get to experience how it isn't the darkness which defines you in your life. Instead, know it is the life and light brought to us in the Resurrection of Easter, which frees us from despairs and the sins of our world. May you truly ring the "Alleluias" of life which we experience everyday.

Have a blessed Easter my friends for HE IS RISEN,

Pastor Drew

PS: Look further into our Newsletter our Holy Week Schedule



Contribution & Attendance Summary

January 2022

Contributions \$1,251.00
Average Weekly Attendance: 16

January 2023

Contributions \$1,255.00
Average Weekly Attendance: 12

INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY

January 1, 2023 - January 31, 2023

INCOME

Bank Interest	\$0.11
Contributions	
General	\$1,255.00
Designated	\$0.00
Special	\$0.00
Other Income	\$4,000.00
	\$5,255.11

EXPENSES

Pastoral Administration	\$935.25
Worship & Music	\$868.04
Office	\$2,605.35
Custodial & Property	\$3,562.39
Uncategorized	\$116.17
	\$8,087.20

April Birthdays



- Betty Boslet 4/12
- Judy Dambeck 4/23
- Thad Detwiler 4/10
- Mark Hoover 4/2
- Stephen Lightner 4/20
- Jeff Marlett Sr. 4/27
- Pat McConnell 4/5
- Ralph Muller 4/24
- Eric Wilt 4/6



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.)

- Tim Surkovich, Debbie Thomas,
- Jeff Bickel, Steve Lightner,
- Staff Sgt John Hiles, Donna Foster,
- Jean Bickel, Donna Wilt, Bill Wilt,
- Carolyn Feather, Bill Dambeck,
- Judy Dambeck

Those serving in our military

Allegheny Lutheran Home:

Janet Kauffman

Homewood

Sylvia Malsatzki

In their own homes:

Deborah Manbeck



Apr 1—John 12:1-8, Psalm 23

Jesus, priceless treasure, thank You for Your lavish gift of forgiveness and eternal life through Your death and resurrection. Amen.

Apr 2—Matthew 21:1-11, Psalm 118:19-29

O Jesus, You do not disappoint us. Thank You for riding on to die for our eternal salvation. Amen.

Apr 3—Matthew 21:33-46, Psalm 31:9-16

Lord Jesus, You have made me an heir of salvation. Produce in me the fruits of faith. Amen.

Apr 4—Matthew 24:15-31, Psalm 42

Dear Jesus, give us peace in knowing You are the Christ who died for our salvation. Amen.

Apr 5—Matthew 26:1-5,14-16, Psalm 70

Dear Father, forgive our evil schemes. Thank You for fulfilling Your plan to ransom us from sin. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Apr 6—Matthew 26:17-29, Psalm 116

O Jesus, Lamb of God, thank You for cleansing us with Your blood, causing eternal death to pass over us and giving us eternal life. Amen.

Apr 7—Matthew 27:45-50, Psalm 22:1-21

My God, my God, thank You for claiming me to be Your own through the sacrifice of Your Son. In His name. Amen.

Apr 8—Matthew 27:57-66, Psalm 88:1-13

O Holy Jesus, who created me anew, my eternal rest is in You. Amen.

Apr 9—Luke 24:1-12, Psalm 118:1-17

O Christ, Your resurrection is my resurrection. Your victory is my victory! Alleluia! Amen.

Apr 10—John 20:11-18, Psalm 100

O Lord Jesus, You have turned my weeping into eternal joy through Your glorious resurrection. Amen.

Apr 11—Luke 24:13-35, Psalm 2

O Lord, stay with us, reveal Yourself to us, and keep us in the true faith. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Apr 12—Luke 24:36-49, Psalm 61

Jesus, Lord of life, because of Your death and resurrection, our sins are forgiven, our lives are at peace, and our doubts are chased away. Alleluia! Amen.

Apr 13—John 20:19-23, Psalm 130

O risen Christ Jesus, thank You for sending my pastor to speak the forgiveness of sins to me. Amen.

Apr 14—1 Corinthians 15:12-28, Psalm 56

O Lord Jesus, You indeed rose from the dead, and our faith in You is not in vain. Alleluia! Amen.

Apr 15—1 Corinthians 15:35-49, Psalm 18:1-19

On my heart imprint Your image, Blessed Jesus, King of grace (*LSB* 422). Amen.

Apr 16—John 20:24-29, Psalm 140

My Yahweh, You are my saving God. I praise You! Alleluia! In Jesus' name. Amen.

Apr 17—1 Corinthians 15:50-58, Psalm 144

Thanks be to You, O God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Apr 18—Romans 6:3-14, Psalm 29

O Christ Jesus, I rejoice that my Baptism washes over me as I die and rise with You daily. Amen.

Apr 19—John 21:1-14, Psalm 16

O Lord Jesus, be with me as I go about my daily life in light of Your resurrection and our salvation. Amen.

Apr 20—John 21:15-19, Psalm 95

O Christ Jesus, may I cling to You and follow You through all my earthly days. Amen.

Apr 21—Matthew 12:38-42, Psalm 113

O Lord, Your greatness shines from the cross and empty tomb and rules and reigns over our lives now and forever. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Apr 22—1 Peter 3:18-22, Psalm 1

O Christ, I rejoice that in my Baptism, You drown my sins and raise me to live with You forever. Amen.

Apr 23—1 Corinthians 11:17-26, Psalm 90

O God, thank You for satisfying our souls in the Holy Meal of Your Son. May our eating and drinking be a proclamation of His death and resurrection until He comes again. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Apr 24—John 6:35-40, Psalm 19

And then from death awaken me, That these mine eyes with joy may see O Son of God, Thy glorious face (*LSB* 708:3). Amen.

Apr 25—John 6:60-69, Psalm 119:153-160

Lord Jesus, let us not stray from You, for there is no one else who gives eternal life. Amen.

Apr 26—1 Peter 1:3-9, Psalm 71:1-14

O risen Christ Jesus, we rejoice that You are the salvation of our souls, our living hope! Amen.

Apr 27—Philippians 3:1-11, Psalm 17

Lord, sustain my faith to believe that my righteousness is in Jesus Christ alone. In His name. Amen.

Apr 28—Job 19, Psalm 31:1-8

Jesus, blessed Redeemer, how I long to see Your face when You raise me from the dead to everlasting life. Amen.

Apr 29—John 11:17-27, Psalm 36

Dear I am, I rejoice that You are the resurrection and the life, now and forever. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Apr 30—1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Psalm 30

Lord Jesus, thank You for turning my grief into resurrection joy. Amen.

Your Daily Prayer




pray
EVERY DAY



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 MAY ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS,
SATURDAY, APRIL 15.***



UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

**WELCA MEETING
POTLUCK
ALLEGHENY CHORALE CONCERT
SWEETS AND TREATS
COUNCIL MEETING
CHURCH PICNIC**

**APR 15 10 AM
APR 16 12 PM
APR 30 3 PM
MAY 7 10 AM
MAY 21 12 PM
JUNE 25**

St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

**1407 Eighth Avenue
Altoona, PA 16602**



814-944-6835



**stjamesaltoona@gmail.com
www.stjamesaltoona.org**

WHAT'S HAPPENING!!



NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

May 21, 2023

SWEETS



TREATS

SWEETS AND TREATS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH.

OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS
WILL BE

May 7, 2023

Provided by Shirley Manbeck

* 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!



POTLUCK DINNER

The next Potluck Dinner is

April 16, 2023



Bible Study Update

Wednesday Afternoon Bible Studies: Wednesday Bible Study group will be returning on May 3rd at 1pm in the Basement Fellowship Hall, at Bethany, as we begin a brand new series with the Gospel of John. A lot of excitement is buzzing for what we will encounter through John's story. Some dates we will not be meeting during the summer because Pastor Drew will be gone for various points due to other commitments but this will not hinder our experience. Hope to see there!

Faith on Tap: We continue to meet on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month as we will be reading Kate Bowler's book, *Everything Happens for a Reason*. This book will shed light on Dr. Bowler's experience as she is diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and how she wrestles with the typical language, we as Christians, use when individuals go through difficult situations. Below is the schedule for the upcoming months:

<u>May Months</u>	<u>June Months</u>
<p>May 2nd: <i>Preface & Diagnosis</i> May 17th: Will not meet as Pastor will be away at Camp Sequanota</p>	<p>June 6th: <i>Object Lessons & Magic Tricks</i> June 20th: <i>Seasons & Surrender</i></p>

CHURCH PICNIC

Planning for the church picnic has begun. You can use the sign up sheet on the stand in the narthex or on the foyer bulletin board. Or use the sheet on the next page.

Church Picnic will be held June 25, 2023 at Highland Park, Pavilion #1



Early Announcement-Summer Picnic Worship!

With summer upon us, we figured we would enjoy the weather and outdoors as part of worship. Traditional, Bethany has held Picnic Worship during the summer months and is inviting St. James to join them as well. *We will still be having our traditional Picnic in Late June, so further information will be coming. We will be gathering at Highland Park for these Outdoor Picnic Worship once a month during the summer at 10am as a combined service between Bethany & St. James. Those dates are June 11th, July 9th, and August 13th. We will have an abridged communion worship service and will then enjoy the picnic festivities. Bethany will provide the main dish for the picnics. We are asking for individuals to bring a side and/or a dessert to be shared with those in attendance. We also ask for you to provide your own appropriate beverage. We are also planning to have some form of entertainment once our worship service has concluded. If something changes with these picnics, we will keep you in the loop.



See you on June 11th at 10:00am at Highland Park!



Allegheny Chorale
presents

Listen to the Music



Sunday, April 30 at 3pm
St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church,
Altoona

Tuesday, May 2 at 7pm
First Presbyterian Church, Tyrone

Deborah Estright, Director

Free to the Public

*** Congregation is asked to bring cookies for the reception after the concert.**

WELCA NEWS



GOD'S PLAN IS WORTH THE WAIT

ISAIAH 30:18

What is **WELCA**? It's an easy way to say "Women of the Evangelical church of America."

SAVE THE DATE: April 15 10 AM

When you all are down to nothing, God is up to something. Come and see what St. James **WELCA** is up to and bring a friend.

National Alliance for Mentally Ill Conference

"Inspiration after Adversity"

**Thursday April 20, 2023
8 AM—2:30 PM**

Blair County Convention Center

Speakers: Barb Zabloutney and Dana Melton RN

Keynote: Katherine Horner

Register until April 3rd at: www.namiblaircountypa.org/

*Attendees are asked to donate new socks and knitted hats which will be donated to the local homeless.

*Questions call 814-327-7083

Holy Week Services

Holy Week is the most sacred week of the Christian Church year. We are asked to remember and experience the week which changed the world and hopefully change us as well. This is a week which we get to experience Christ's passion and see how it isn't just another week on the calendar. The following services are here to help us experience the kind of love which was shown on the first Holy Week. We hope you are able to attend and experience a closeness of God's love for us and the world.

Palm Sunday- April 2nd 10:45 AM

With a joyful noise, we gather at the entrance of Jerusalem waiving our palms. We shout "Hosanna" (save now!) as our cry for a broken world. "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" (Luke 19:38) This service serves as a wonderful opportunity to begin our journey with Jesus to the cross.



Maundy Thursday- April 6th 6:00PM (This service will be at Bethany this year!)



"Lord make our sad divisions soon to cease; draw us all closer, each to each, we plead, by drawing all to you, O Prince of peace." (ELW 463)

On this sacred night, we remember the final night which Jesus gathered with the original twelve disciples sharing with them the commandments of Love and Grace through meal and the washing of feet. This is a night which we give thanks for the gift of communion as we are mere hours away from his death on the cross. We will be gathering with our friends, at Bethany, as we will celebrate this holy night with Dinner Church (a similar service which we have been using during the Lenten Mid-Week gatherings).

The altar is stripped as we remember Jesus being stripped of his freedom as we hear the words of Psalm 22 preparing us for Good Friday.

Good Friday- April 7th 2:00PM

(Communion will not be celebrated)

We gather at the foot of the cross to hear the words of Jesus's agonizing death for us and for our salvation. In this service of remembrance we ponder his trial, his torture, his carrying the cross, his crucifixion and burial through the use of Scripture and hymns. We also hear the final words of Jesus by candlelight and leave in darkness and silence this night.



THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD (EASTER SUNDAY) April 9th 10:45AM

It has finally arrived!! If you ever wonder if there was a day in which the world was changed, the first Easter was that day. We gather to celebrate Christ being Raised from the Dead!!! Death, sin, fear, cruelty, injustice, and evil no longer have the final say in our lives because the final words belong to Jesus. Christ is risen and we celebrate that freedom!

The church will be decorated to celebrate this momentous occasion.



Holy Week



Easter Flower Memorials 2023

IMO Irvin J. Boslet

IMO Charles & Ora Hetrick

IMO Delores Hoover

IHO Jeff & Carol Marlett Sr. and Family

IHO Alan & Carol Weaver and Family

IHO Andrea, Jacob and Elijah Svidergol

By Betty J Boslet

IMO Robert, Vivian & Anne Hench

IMO Robert & Blanche Schroeder

IMO Dr. Anne Hench-Louie

By Bob & Karen Hench

IHO Parents, Children & Grandchildren

IMO Walter & Marian Muller

IMO Patty Sharrar & Betty Muller

By Bob & Evelyn Holsinger

IHO Bob & Marian Holsinger

IHO Children Kasey (Jr), Nick (Brandi), Kelley

IHO Grandchildren Braeden, Zach, Sammie,

Jack & Max

IMO Delores Hoover

By Mark Hoover



Easter Flower Memorials 2023

*IMO Our father and grandfather Robert Leonard
IMO Our mother and grandmother Marlene Leonard
By David, Brian, wife Tracy, Tara, Matthew Leonard*

*IHO Children Eric & Kristen
IHO Grandchildren Kathryn, Nathan & Jacob
By Steve & Sharon Lightner*

*IHO Brad & Paulette
IMO David, Nathan, Shelia & Jean
By Shirley Manbeck*

*IHO our parents
By Mike & Lori Savino*

*IHO Our Children and their families
Eric , Julia & Elliott Wilt
Erikka and Eric Kuhse
Ethan , Ashley and Rory Wilt
Dana, Todd
Haley, Jada, & Sienna Mayo
IMO Our parents & Loved Ones
Kenneth and Louise Cívils
Ira and Dorothy Wilt
By Donna & Bill Wilt*



Church Council Members

Mark Hoover—President
Donna Wilt—Vice President
Evelyn Holsinger—Secretary
Ralph Grove—Treasurer
Betty Boslet
Dana Detwiler
Donna Foster
Sharon Lightner
Sylvia Malsatzki
Shirley Manbeck
Mike Savino
Bill Wilt

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

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

Worship & Music

- ***Mark Hoover**
- *Dana Detwiler
- *Donna Foster
- *Sharon Lightner
- *Sylvia Malsatzki
- Pat McConnell

By-Laws

- ***Mark Hoover**
- *Betty Boslet
- *Mike Savino

**Christian Education/
Social Ministry**

- ***Evelyn Holsinger**
- *Sharon Lightner
- *Sylvia Malsatzki
- *Shirley Manbeck
- *Donna Wilt

Finance

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

Property

- ***Bill Wilt**
- Bill Dambeck
- Bob Holsinger
- *Evelyn Holsinger
- *Shirley Manbeck
- *Mike Savino

Stewardship/Evangelism

- ***Donna Wilt**
- *Dana Detwiler
- *Sharon Lightner

* Denotes Council Member
Thrivent Rep.—
Robin Kessler