

**St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church** May 7, 2023 5th Sunday of Easter

Worship every Sunday 10:45 AM

### Communion

#### 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.

Announcements: If you cannot read the hymns, you can turn to the hymn in the red ELW hymnal in the pew racks.

Prelude

Offertoire

Robert Lau

(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 Is Alive! Let Christians Sing NEXT PAGE ELW 389

#### Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing



Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: TRURO, T. Williams, Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789

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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.

#### \*CANTICLE OF PRAISE





#### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY:

#### P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

#### We Listen to the Word

#### **First Reading:**

Acts 7:55-60

A reading from Acts.

<sup>55</sup>Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>"Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" <sup>57</sup>But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup>Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup>While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." <sup>60</sup>Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

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

#### PSALM

#### Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

<sup>1</sup>In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

#### <sup>2</sup>Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.

<sup>3</sup>Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

## <sup>4</sup>Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, for you are my tower of strength.

<sup>5</sup>Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.

## <sup>15</sup>My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

<sup>16</sup>Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love."

#### Second Reading:

#### 1 Peter 2:2-10

A reading from 1 Peter.

<sup>2</sup>Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—<sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. <sup>4</sup>Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup>like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

<sup>7</sup>To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

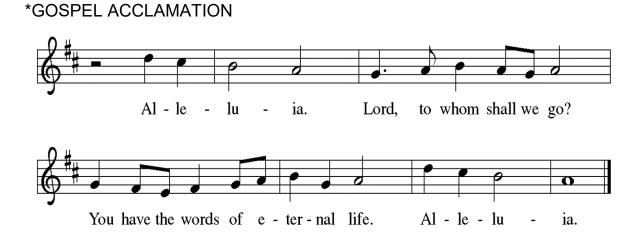
"The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,"  $^{\rm 8}\!$  and

"A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

<sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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



\*GOSPEL: The Holy Gospel according to John.

John 14:1-14



[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going." <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

<sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

#### The Gospel of the Lord.



#### \*Hymn of the Day:

The Church's One Foundation Je - sus Christ, her Lord; The church's one foun - da - tion is 1 2 Е lect from ev - 'ry na tion, yet one o'er all the earth, Though with a scorn-ful 3 won - der this world sees her op - pressed, and trib - u - la - tion and Through toil tu - mult of her 4 war, on earth has u nion with God, the Three in 5 Yet she One, tion by she is his new cre а wa - ter and the word. her char - ter of sal va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth: her - e - sies dis-tressed, peace for - ev - er - more; those whose rest is won. schisms . . rent sund - er, by a by she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of mvs - tic sweet com - mu - nion with and From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - lv bride; par - takes one ho - ly ho - ly name she bless - es, food. one cry goes up: "How long?" saints their watch are keep - ing; their yet till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest, Oh. bless - ed heav'n-ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by. vour grace, with his blood he bought her, for her life died. own and he and one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace dued. to en weep - ing of the and soon the night shall be morn of song. and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest. that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face face. to

ELW 654

\*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, and his kingdom will have no end.

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.

#### Prayers of Intercession

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

#### A brief silence.

God of life, strengthen your church to proclaim your gospel even in times of trouble. As we remember Stephen, we give thanks for diaconal ministry. Bless all deacons and strengthen them for their bridge-building ministry between church and world. Hear us, O God.

#### Your mercy is great.

Creating God, you show your steadfast love through mighty waters, towering mountains, verdant fields, and arid deserts. Protect the earth's diverse habitats from the forces of pollution, erosion, extinction, and global warming. Hear us, O God.

#### Your mercy is great.

Mighty God, your Spirit guides us into all truth. Give wisdom to world and local leaders and organizations as they begin, build, or renew relationships. Strengthen leaders and aid organizations in areas needing to be rebuilt following conflict, unrest, or natural disaster (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

Loving God, you make your home among us. Abide with refugees, those experiencing homelessness, those fleeing war and poverty, and all who question if there is a home in your heart. We pray for all who are sick (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

#### Your mercy is great.

Assuring God, you accompany your people amid uncertainty and change. Uphold people in this community who have recently moved, changed jobs or schools, retired, or are going through transitions of any kind. Lead us in your ways. Hear us, O God.

#### Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Renewing God, you gather the saints at your heavenly banquet. We give you thanks for the care shown us by those who have gone before us (*especially*). Grant confidence and comfort for all awaiting the place you have prepared. Hear us, O God.

#### Your mercy is great.

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.** 

#### Here other intercessions may be offered.

As you have raised Jesus from the dead, you show us your resurrection promise. With your holy ones who have sung your praise (*especially*), free us from fear and empower us to go and tell the good news. Risen Lord, in your mercy,

#### hear our prayer.

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

#### Amen.

\*Sharing of the Peace

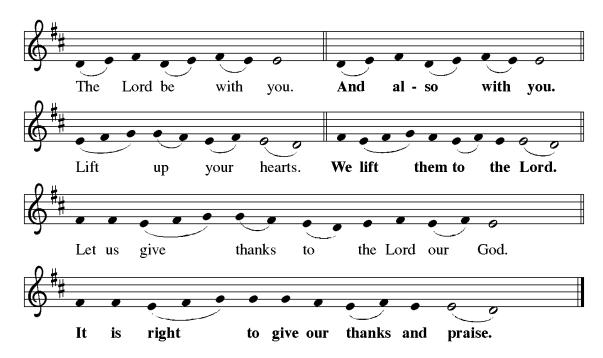
- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C And also with you.

#### We Offer Our Gifts

\*Offering Prayer:

- P: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C: Amen.

We Share the Feast



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, for the glorious resurrection our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

\*Holy Communion

## 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."

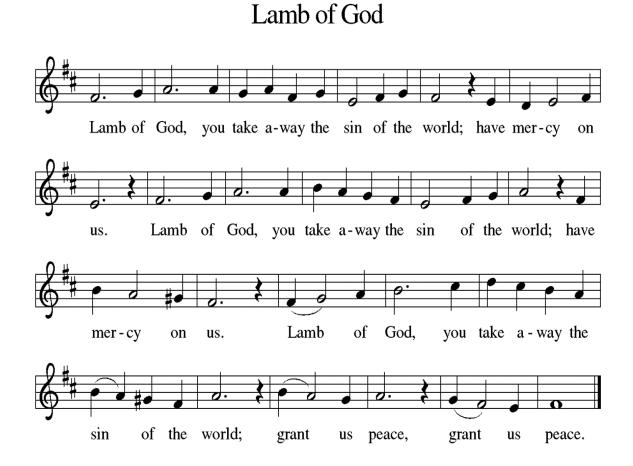
For as often as we eat this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

\*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.



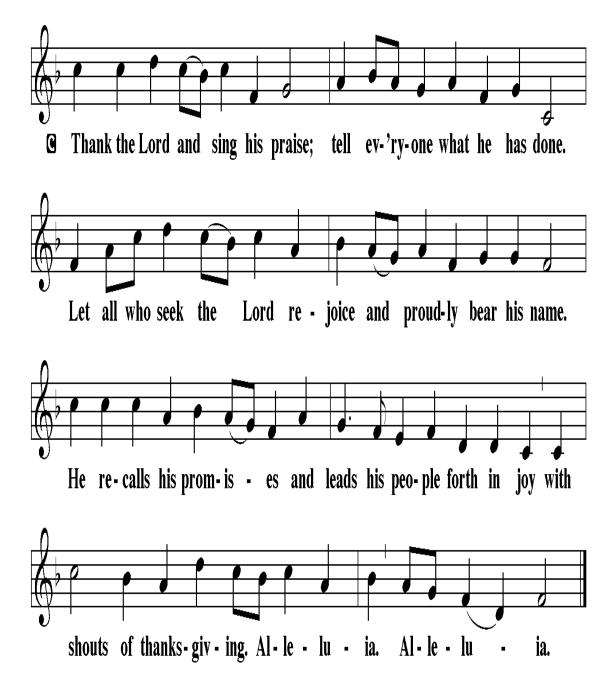
\*Communion Distribution

\*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:



#### \*Prayer after Communion

**P:** Let us pray.

Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.

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:	Sing with All the Saints in Glory	ELW 426
NEXT PAGE		

\*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

#### C: Thanks be to God!

Recessional: Take My Life And Let It Be	Peterson/Dykes
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#### Sing with All the Saints in Glory

- Sing with all the saints in glory, sing the resurrection song! Death and sorrow, earth's dark story, to the former days belong. All around the clouds are breaking, soon the storms of time shall cease; in God's likeness we awaken, knowing everlasting peace.
- 2 Oh, what glory, far exceeding all that eye has yet perceived! Holiest hearts for ages pleading never that full joy conceived. God has promised, Christ prepares it, there on high our welcome waits. Ev'ry humble spirit shares it, Christ has passed the eternal gates.
- 3 Life eternal! heav'n rejoices: Jesus lives who once was dead. Shout with joy, O deathless voices! Child of God, lift up your head! Life eternal! Oh, what wonders crowd on faith; what joy unknown, when, amid earth's closing thunders, saints shall stand before the throne!

Text: William J. Irons, 1812-1883, alt.

## 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

Bill Wilt Donna 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







#### **UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS:**

SWEETS AND TREATS TODAY BIBLE STUDY @ BETHANY KIRCHENBLATT ARTICLE DEADLINE COUNCIL MEETING BIBLE STUDY @ BETHANY BIBLE STUDY @ BETHANY SUMMER PICNIC WORSHIP KIRCHENBLATT ARTICLE DEADLINE CHURCH PICNIC SUMMER PICNIC WORSHIP SUMMER PICNIC WORSHIP MAY 7 10 AM MAY 10 1 PM MAY 15 12 PM MAY 21 12 PM MAY 24 1 PM MAY 31 1 PM JUN 11 10 AM JUN 15 12 PM JUN 25 11 AM JUL 9 10 AM AUG 13 10 AM





#### **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 11<sup>th</sup>, July 9<sup>th</sup>, and August 13<sup>th</sup>. 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 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am at Highland Park!

#### **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 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:

May Months	June Months
May 2nd: Preface & Diagnosis	June 6th: Object Lessons &
	Magic Tricks
will be away at Camp Sequanota	June 20th: Seasons & Surrender



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

#### OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS WILL BE TODAY 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!

# MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

6150 Lincoln Highway • Stoystown, PA 15563 May 28, 2023 • 3:00 PM

> Guest Speaker Retired Staff Sergeant Earl Granville

#### Performances

Bellwood Community Choir Gold Star Dad – Dave Gettings

\*\*Please bring a lawn chair\*\*

\*\*If it rains, performance at Camp Allegheny Activities Building 100 Camp Allegheny Dr. Stoystown, PA 15563

#### Camp Sequanota's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Well Festival

Stretch your Mind & Connect with others

We strive to live authentically as God's people. Over the generations, people have found that it is easier to live and strive when we do it together. This is what the Well Festival is all about-living, learning, and loving together.

The key component of the event tis to simply provide open space for particpants to engage one another. The idea is for spiritual explorers to gather to find community and support as we engage in a wide range of conversations.

The festival is designed to offer different "tents" or learning experiences to provide for conversation. Maybe the conversation is new to you, or maybe you are a seasoned veteran on a topic, but this weekend is curated to provide the space to discuss and explore together.

For more information & how to register, check out <u>sequanota.com</u>.



#### Synod Assembly, June 17th

Our annual synod assembly will be coming up the 3rd Saturday of June. We are thankful for our reps (Lori Savino & Donna Wilt) for this year's assembly. We are excited because this will be the first year of returning to an in-person assembly format. Visitors can watch the assembly on the Synod's Youtube Channel (search Allegheny 8C). There will be a worship service Sunday afternoon at First Lutheran, Altoona at 4:00pm and there will be digital Bible Study's, via Synod's YouTube Channel, on June 13<sup>th</sup> & June 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.



## St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.