



# St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

May 14, 2023

6th Sunday  
of Easter

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 guest 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

Prayer

Frank Asper

*(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 Spirit.

**Amen.**

*We Gather*

\*GATHERING SONG: We Plow the Fields and Scatter

ELW 681

NEXT PAGE

## We Plow the Fields and Scatter

1 We plow the fields and scat - ter the good seed on the land,  
 2 You on - ly are the mak - er of all things near and far.  
 3 We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good,

but it is fed and wa - tered by God's al - might - y hand,  
 You paint the way - side flow - er, you light the eve - ning star.  
 the seed - time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food.

who sends the snow in win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain,  
 The winds and waves o - bey you, by you the birds are fed;  
 No gifts have we to of - fer for all your love im - parts,

the breez - es and the sun - shine, and soft re - fresh - ing rain.  
 much more to us, your chil - dren, you give our dai - ly bread.  
 but what you most would trea - sure—our hum - ble, thank - ful hearts.

*Refrain*

All good gifts a - round us are sent from heav'n a - bove.

We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.

Text: Matthias Claudius, 1740–1815; tr. Jane M. Campbell, 1817–1878, alt.  
 Music: WIR PFLÜGEN, Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747–1800

**\*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



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

# Glory to God

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

P: Let us pray.

**Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, 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:**

**Acts 17:22-31**

A reading from Acts.

<sup>22</sup>Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup>For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup>From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup>so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him— though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup>For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we too are his offspring.’

<sup>29</sup>Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals.

<sup>30</sup>While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

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

## PSALM

## Psalm 66:8-20

<sup>8</sup>Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard.

<sup>9</sup>**Our God has kept us among the living and has not allowed our feet to slip.**

<sup>10</sup>For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us just as silver is tried.

<sup>11</sup>**You brought us into the net; you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

<sup>12</sup>You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

<sup>13</sup>**I will enter your house with burnt offerings and will pay you my vows—**

<sup>14</sup>those that I promised <sup>h</sup>with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

<sup>15</sup>**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams; I will give you oxen and goats.**

<sup>16</sup>Come and listen, all you who believe, and I will tell you what God has done for me.

<sup>17</sup>**I called out to God with my mouth, and praised the Lord with my tongue.**

<sup>18</sup>If I had cherished evil in my heart, the Lord would not have heard me;

<sup>19</sup>**but in truth God has heard me and has attended to the sound of my prayer.**

<sup>20</sup>Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld unfailing love from me.

## Second Reading:

1 Peter 3:13-22

A reading from 1 Peter.

<sup>13</sup>Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup>But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup>but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; <sup>16</sup>yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup>For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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

### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

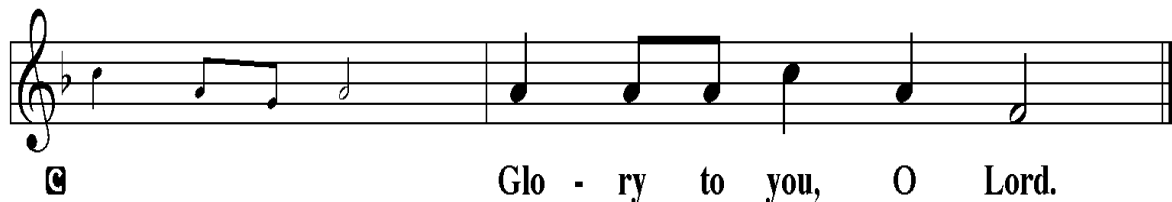


You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.



**\*GOSPEL:**  
**The Holy Gospel according to John.**

**John 14:15-21**



[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup>“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup>This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup>In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

**The Gospel of the Lord.**



## *We Respond to the Word*

\*Hymn of the Day:

ELW 492

### For All the Faithful Women



1 For all the faith - ful wom - en who served in days of old,  
*Insert one or more of stanzas 3-11 or this general stanza 2:*  
2 O God, for saints and ser - vants, those named and those un - known,  
*Last* All praise to God the Fa - ther! All praise to Christ the Son!



to you shall thanks be giv - en; to all, their stor - y told.  
in whom through all the a - ges your light of glo - ry shone,  
All praise to God the Spir - it, who binds the church as one!



They served with strength and glad - ness in tasks your wis - dom gave.  
we of - fer glad thanks-giv - ing and fer - vent prayer we raise  
With saints who went be - fore us, with saints who wit - ness still,



To you their lives bore wit - ness, pro - claimed your pow'r to save.  
that, faith - ful in your ser - vice, our lives may sing your praise.  
we sing glad al - le - lu - ias and strive to do your will.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923

Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune

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## **\*Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
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

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 our faithful companion, you promise to never leave us and to send your Spirit to guide us in wisdom and truth. Send your people into the world to serve as mirrors that reflect and magnify your love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

All the earth sings praises to you. Grant your care to the creatures, plants, and places that are suffering, and equip us to respond to their song. Make us agents of restoration and refreshment for all your beloved creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You call all people of the world your children. Judge the nations justly, show mercy to all who are oppressed, and speak truth to power through your prophets. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Nurturing Lord, you sent your Spirit to grant us peace. Make your presence known to those who feel abandoned or alone, and to all who are sick or grieving (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You hold us in your loving care. We pray for mothers and mother figures. Console all who long to be mothers, children estranged from their mothers, anyone grieving the death of a mother, and mothers who have lost a child. Support all for whom this day is difficult. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Almighty God, you give life and breath to all things. We give thanks for the apostle Matthias and all your saints (*especially*). Sustain us by your love until we join the saints in glory. 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.**

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: Dear Christians One and All Rejoice ELW 594  
*NEXT PAGE*

\*Dismissal

**P:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God!

Recessional

Fuga

Alessandro Scarlatti

## Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice



1 Dear Chris-tians, one and all, re-joice, with ex-ul-ta-tion  
2 Fast bound in Sa-tan's chains I lay, death brood-ed fierce-ly  
3 O God, you saw my deep dis-tress be-fore the world's foun-  
4 You said to your be-lov-ed Son: "'Tis time to have com-



spring-ing, and, with u-nit-ed heart and voice and ho-ly  
o'er me, sin was my tor-ment night and day; in sin my  
da-tion, and, with your mer-cy mea-sure-less, you planned for  
pas-sion. Then go, bright jew-el of my crown, and bring to



rap-ture sing-ing, pro-claim the won-ders God has done, pro-  
moth-er bore me. My own good works all came to naught, free  
my sal-va-tion. You turned to me a fa-ther's heart; you  
all sal-va-tion; from sin and sor-row set them free; slay



claim the vic-t'ry God has won, how pre-cious was our ran-som!  
will a-gainst God's judg-ment fought, so firm-ly sin pos-sessed me.  
did not choose the eas-y part, but gave your dear-est trea-sure.  
bit-ter death for them that they may live with you for-ev-er."

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. hymnal version

Music: NUN FREUT EUCH, *Ethlich christlich Lieder*, Wittenberg, 1524

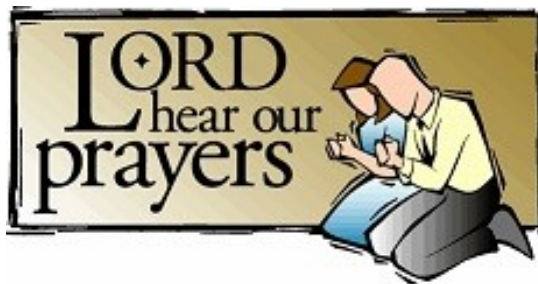
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# CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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](mailto:pastordrew0604@gmail.com)

The church office email is [stjamesaltoona@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesaltoona@gmail.com) The church's  
website is [www.stjamesaltoona.org](http://www.stjamesaltoona.org)  
On Facebook—St. James Lutheran Church—Altoona, PA



## **Our Prayer List:**

Tim Surkovich

Debbie Thomas

Jeff Bickel

Bill Wilt

Staff Sgt John Hiles

Donna Foster

Jean Bickel

Donna Wilt

Carolyn Feather

Bill Dambeck

Judy Dambeck

(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

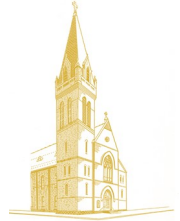
## **Allegheny Lutheran Home:**

Janet Kauffman

## **In their own homes:**

Deborah Manbeck





## UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

KIRCHENBLATT ARTICLE DEADLINE	MAY 15 12 PM
COUNCIL MEETING	MAY 21 12 PM
BIBLE STUDY @ BETHANY	MAY 24 1 PM
BIBLE STUDY @ BETHANY	MAY 31 1 PM
SWEETS AND TREATS	JUN 4 10:30AM
SUMMER PICNIC WORSHIP	JUN 11 10 AM
KIRCHENBLATT ARTICLE DEADLINE	JUN 15 12 PM
CHURCH PICNIC	JUN 25 11 AM
SUMMER PICNIC WORSHIP	JUL 9 10 AM
SUMMER PICNIC WORSHIP	AUG 13 10 AM







## **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 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!**

Happy   
*Mother's*  
Day

*Don't forget to pickup your potted plant after worship!*

*Happy Mother's Day from:*



WOMEN  
of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## 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:

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



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

OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS  
WILL BE

June 4, 2023

Provided by Diane Shultz

\* 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!

# **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 is to simply provide open space for participants 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 [sequanota.com](http://sequanota.com).



## **Synod Assembly, June 17<sup>th</sup>**

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.



Thank you!

A Big Thank You to Mike Savino for stepping in and leading us in worship this past Sunday while Pastor Drew was under the weather.

Pray  
for  
Vocations



# Church Picnic

June 25, 2023  
Highland Park, Pavilion #1

11:00 AM Communion Worship Service

12:00 PM Meal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Plan to attend # \_\_\_\_\_

Plan to bring # \_\_\_\_\_

I can help. Sign me up to do:

Shopping \_\_\_\_\_

Set up the day of the picnic \_\_\_\_\_

Transporting Supplies \_\_\_\_\_

Cooking/Grilling \_\_\_\_\_

Clean Up \_\_\_\_\_

**Paper Plates, utensils and drinks will be provided.**

*St. James Evangelical  
Lutheran Church*

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**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.