



St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

June 25, 2023

**Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Church Picnic**

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, please share them with the worship leader or voice them during the intercessional prayers. Before you leave us today, we ask that you please introduce yourself to the worship leader.

**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.



St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church



Church Picnic 2023

Welcome and Announcements:

Today we rejoice and give thanks for the arrival of summer. We celebrate God's glorious creation, we express gratitude for a season of accomplishments in school, work and home. We offer thanks to God for his gift of summer time so that we might enjoy vacations, time for special interests and rest.

Prelude:

Piano Music

Pat McConnell

We Gather

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.

*GATHERING SONG: Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak ELW 676

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Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak



1 Lord, speak to us, that we may speak in
2 Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead the
3 Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach the
4 Oh, fill us with your full - ness, Lord, un -



liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so
wan-d'ring and the wa - v'ring feet; oh, feed us, Lord, that
pre - cious truths which you im - part; and wing our words, that
til our ver - y hearts o'er - flow in kin - dling thought and



let us seek your stray - ing chil - dren, lost and lone.
we may feed your hun - g'ring ones with man - na sweet.
they may reach the hid - den depths of man - y a heart.
glow - ing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.
Music: CANONBURY, Robert Schumann, 1810–1856

*PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Let us pray.

C: Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

We Listen to the Word

First Reading:

Jeremiah 20:7-13

A reading from Jeremiah.

⁷O LORD, you have enticed me, and I was enticed; you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all day long; everyone mocks me.

⁸For whenever I speak, I must cry out, I must shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the LORD has become for me a reproach and derision all day long.

⁹If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name," then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.

¹⁰For I hear many whispering: "Terror is all around! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" All my close friends are watching for me to stumble. "Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him, and take our revenge on him."

¹¹But the LORD is with me like a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten.

¹²O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous, you see the heart and the mind; let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

¹³Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18

⁷ Surely, for your sake I have suffered reproach, and shame has covered my face.

⁸ **I have become a stranger to my own kindred, an alien to my mother's children.**

⁹ Zeal for your house has eaten me up; the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.

¹⁰ **I humbled myself with fasting, but that was turned to my reproach.**

[¹¹ I put on sackcloth also, and became a by-word among them.

¹² **Those who sit at the gate murmur against me, and the drunkards make songs about me.**

¹³ But as for me, this is my prayer to you, at the time you have set, O LORD: "In your great mercy, O God, answer me with your un-failing help.

¹⁴ **Save me from the mire; do not let me sink; let me be rescued from those who hate me and out of the deep waters.**

¹⁵ Let not the torrent of waters wash over me, neither let the deep swallow me up; do not let the pit shut its mouth upon me.]

¹⁶ **Answer me, O LORD, for your love is kind; in your great compassion, turn to me.**

¹⁷ Hide not your face from your servant; be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.

¹⁸ **Draw near to me and redeem me; because of my enemies deliver me.**

***GOSPEL:**

Matthew 10:24-39

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

[Jesus said to the twelve:] ²⁴“A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; ²⁵it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

²⁶“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops.

²⁸Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³²“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; ³³but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

³⁴“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

³⁵For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;
³⁶and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

³⁷Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; ³⁸and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

The Gospel of the Lord

***SERMON**

We Respond to the Word

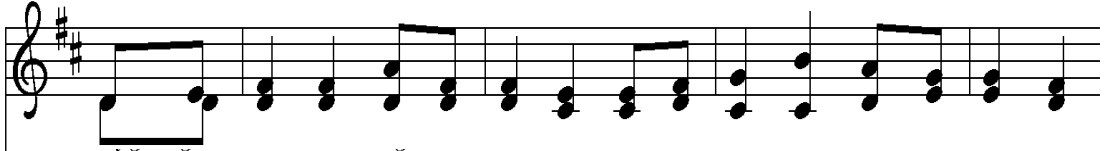
*Hymn of the Day:

Children of the Heavenly Father

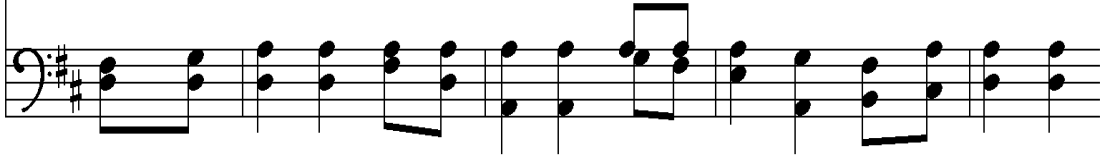
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Children of the Heavenly Father



- 1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa-ther safe-ly in his bo - som gath - er;
- 2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour-ish.
- 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
- 4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil-dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.



Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870-1958

Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, Swedish 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

Trusting in God's abundant mercy, let us offer our prayers for a world in need.

A brief silence.

You entice your church to speak truth that challenges false notions of peace. Prevail upon us with the good news of Christ's death and resurrection, that we are compelled to share the gospel with all the world. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Under your watch not even a sparrow goes unnoticed. Safeguard plant and animal habitats threatened by melting glaciers, rising oceans, and receding coastlines. Amplify the voices of those calling for responsible stewardship of the earth's resources. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Our world is enduring violence and destruction. Rescue your people in nations experiencing conflict or crisis (*especially*). Thwart the efforts of those who sow chaos and terror, and guide those working to bring about peace and reconciliation. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You have counted even the hairs of our heads. Reassure anyone experiencing poverty, homelessness, unemployment, or exploitation that every life has value. Look favorably upon all who struggle (*especially*).

Answer us, for your steadfast love is good. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Even when we experience rejection your love invites us to new life. Lift up anyone who feels shunned or excluded on account of their gender, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, or any other human distinction. Make your people one. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

All who have died with Christ also live with him. We give thanks for (*Philipp Melancthon and*) all the saints whose faithful confession inspired our own discipleship, and raise us, with them, to eternal life. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Receive our prayers and answer us, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

* The Offertory Prayer:

P: Let us pray. 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.

* The Great Thanksgiving:

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: 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. For it is our Lord Jesus, who in the night in which he was betrayed 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".

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.**

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

Communion

• Post Communion Blessing:

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

C: **Amen.**

* Post Communion Prayer:

P: We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

We Are Sent

*Benediction and Blessing

P: Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: (Grace is said for our picnic lunch.)

*Sending Song: This is my Father's World

ELW 824

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Recessional:

Piano Music

Pat McConnell



This Is My Father's World

1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all
2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car-ols raise; the
3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for-get that,

na-ture sings, and round me rings the mu-sic of the spheres.
morn-ing light, the lil-y white, de-clare their mak-er's praise.
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul-er yet.

This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the
This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The

rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won-ders wrought.
rus-tling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev-'ry-where.
Lord is king, let heav-en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

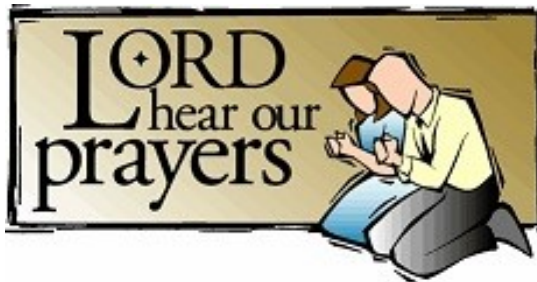
IN THE CASE OF A PASTORAL EMERGENCY,

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 stjamesaltoona@gmail.com The church's
website is 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:

BIBLE STUDY @ BETHANY	JUN 20 1 PM
WELCA LUNCHEON POSTPONED TO A LATER DATE	
CHURCH PICNIC TODAY	JUN 25 11 AM
HIGHLAND PARK PAVILION 2	
SUMMER PICNIC WORSHIP	JUL 9 10 AM
COUNCIL MEETING	JUL 16 12 PM
BIBLE STUDY @ BETHAY	JUL 18 1 PM
SUMMER PICNIC WORSHIP	AUG 13 10 AM
LUTHERAN DAY AT THE CURVE	AUG 13



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 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 July 9th at 10:00am at Highland Park!



Bible Study Update

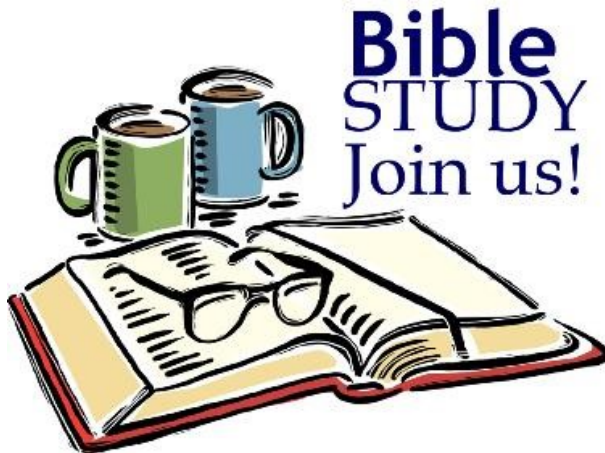
Wednesday Afternoon Bible Studies: Wednesday Bible Study group will be returning on May 3rd at 1pm in the Basement Fellowship Hall, at Bethany, as we begin a brand new series with the Gospel of John. A lot of excitement is buzzing for what we will encounter through John's story. Some dates we will not 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 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:

July Months

July 4th: NO STUDY-PASTOR AWAY

July 18th: *Christmas Cheer &*





Potluck will start again in September



WELCA NEWS



our summer luncheon at The Spruce Creek Tavern and a trip to Martins Farm Market in Spruce Creek has been postponed to a later date. This is a treat from WELCA. Everyone in the congregation is invited. More details to come! Please come and joy us on this summer day.

SWEETS



TREATS

SWEETS AND TREATS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH.

**OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS
WILL BE
OCTOBER 1, 2023**

* 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!

Lutheran Day at the Altoona Curve

Sunday, August 13th



Game Begins at 6:00pm
Fireworks following the game.

Tickets -
\$7.00/each



Please Register with
the Synod Office
by Friday, August 1st.



Gratitude
IS THE BEST
Attitude

food
friends
sunshine.



**Church
Picnic**

2023



**Church
Picnic**



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



*St. James Evangelical
Lutheran Church*



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