



Kirchenblatt July 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

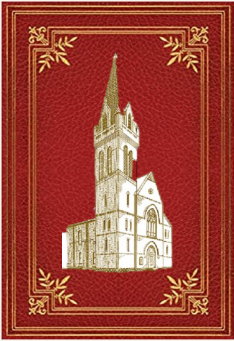
EMAIL: STJAMESALTOONA@GMAIL.COM

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PHONE: 814-944-6835

MISSION STATEMENT:

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



Vice Pastor's Report July 2023

Pastor's July Musings

United in Christ-Synod Assembly Review

I figured for this edition of my musings, it would be good to reflect on the happenings of our recent Synod Assembly which took place on June 17th. We gathered at the Blair County Convention Center for a 1 (one) day assembly. Before gathering on June 17th, for our first in person assembly since Covid, we held a in person worship service the week prior and had two zoom based Bible Studies with our ELCA presenter/Bible Study leader (Kristen Opalinski-*Manager for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations for the ELCA*). Our theme for this assembly was *United in Christ* as a way to remind us through the various undertakings in this world and our faith, we are united together.

I am thankful for representation between Bethany (Rhonda Barry & Terry Koch) and St James (Lori Savino & Donna Wilt). Our day included voting on a variety of Synodical positions from Council to other committees, we discussed the budget (which I will flush out a little further below), 2024 compensation manual for clergy, and heard a variety of reports from Synod Staff, Synod Partners like Penn State Campus Ministry and Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania (LAMPa), and a 3rd Bible Study with Ms. Opalinski focused on unity. We also had conversations about some new ventures and things in the works through the synod office.

Currently, the Synod Office is redefining its Mission Statement as part of a re-branding and refocusing. During Rev. Kevin Schock, Assistant to the Bishop/Director of Evangelical Mission, report we heard a variety of words which the Synod Council were discerning. Pastor Kevin felt a good exercise would for the assembly help narrow down this group of words (Love, Collaborate, Affirm, Bury, etc) to 3 words which will hopefully be part of a mission statement in the

coming months. Also during Pastor Kevin's report, he called for our congregations to envision ways we can be active participants with our members and with our communities. During Bishop Paula's time, we participated in a beautiful devotion to open ourselves to our time together.

The large actions taken during our assembly revolved around budgetary items as our assembly discerned a possible venture. We not only adjusted some miscalculations in the approved 2022-2023 budget. We then discussed looking towards a staff adjustment moving towards 2024. Bishop Craig Miller of Upper Susquehanna Synod (areas like Lewistown, Danville, Lewisburg, etc) reached out to Bishop Paul about sharing a Director of Evangelical Mission (currently filled part-time by Pastor Kevin) between the two synods. This would of course involved some budgeting changes because part of Pastor Kevin's compensation is covered through our national church wide's office. Through conversations with the assembly and prayer, our body voted to have further conversations with Upper Susquehanna to share a Dir of Evangelical Mission. and move Pastor Kevin to full time capacity as Assistant to the Bishop. If this process goes through, this will bring the synod staffing back to how it was Pre-2019 with a FT Bishop, FT Assistant, PT Dir of Evangelical Mission at the synod office which we hope will help bring additional visibility and partnerships with the synod. Stay tuned to further development in this area.

While to some, this seems like Synod Assembly is a boring because it is filled with business and not much else. This assembly felt significant because it was our first in person assembly since Covid but it also provided as a time to remind us of how we as a community are united as beloved children. May we continue to strive to seek ways we are united in Christ.

Pastor Drew

Contribution & Attendance Summary	
April 2022	
Contributions	\$1,225.00
Average Weekly Attendance:	13
April 2023	
Contributions	\$1,105.00
Average Weekly Attendance:	12

July Birthdays

Dana Detwiler	7/29
Gary Feather	7/17
Evelyn Holsinger	7/15
Robert Holsinger	7/29
Donna Kauffman	7/12
Shirley Manbeck	7/20
Lori Savino	7/2
Jacob Svidergol	7/20
Lynn Trinks	7/1

INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY
April 1, 2023 - April 30, 2023

INCOME	
Bank Interest	\$0.00
Contributions	
General	\$1,105.00
Designated	\$0.00
Special	\$0.00
Other Income	\$4,000.00
	\$5,105.00
EXPENSES	
Pastoral Administration	\$939.93
Worship & Music	\$587.54
Office	\$1,177.94
Custodial & Property	\$2,191.37
Uncategorized	\$182.00
	\$5,078.78

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, Bill Wilt, Staff Sgt John Hiles
 Donna Foster, Jean Bickel, Donna 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

Jul 1—1 John 3:1-3, Psalm 66:1-12

Lord, what great love You have given us to call us Your children! Make us mindful of our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world, that we may share Your love together in our heavenly family. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jul 2—Luke 1:39-45, Psalm 139:1-18

Lord, thank You for Your many promises, most of all for salvation through Your Son. Grant us faith like Mary's to believe and be blessed. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jul 3—Luke 1:46-55, Psalm 34:1-10

O God, my Savior, I rejoice in You. May my soul always magnify You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jul 4—Colossians 1:3-4, 9-14, Psalm 95:1-7

Lord, we praise You for the beauty of creation and, most of all, the beauty of Your Son, who has conquered the darkness of sin and brought us into His kingdom of light. In His name we pray. Amen.

Jul 5—Psalm 23, Psalm 22:1-18

Lord Jesus, thank You for being my Suffering Servant and Shepherd. I rejoice in Your salvation and tender care. Amen.

Jul 6—Colossians 2:6-14, Psalm 84

Lord, thank You for filling us with Your full forgiveness. Draw us back to Your Word whenever we feel empty. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jul 7—Romans 5:1-8, Psalm 100

Lord Jesus, I praise You for holding me securely in Your grace. Amen.

Jul 8—1 Chronicles 16:31-36, Psalm 118:19-29

Lord, You are good, and Your love endures forever. Thank You for the restoration You have brought us through Jesus. In His name. Amen.

Jul 9—Romans 8:25-30, Psalm 5

Lord Jesus, thank You for interceding to do for us that which we cannot do ourselves. Hear our needs, both spoken and unspoken. Amen.

Jul 10—Matthew 14:22-33, Psalm 118:13-17

Lord Jesus, forgive my doubt and restore me to Your gracious care. Amen.

Jul 11—Isaiah 12, Psalm 63:1-8

Lord Jesus, thank You for satisfying our parched souls with Your living water. Amen.

Jul 12—3 John 2-8, Psalm 78:1-8

Father, forgive us for times we haven't walked in the truth. Guide us anew that we may lead the next generation in the truth of Your Word, Jesus, our Redeemer. In His name. Amen.

Jul 13—Matthew 13:31-33, Psalm 52

Lord Jesus, thank You for looking upon us with mercy amidst our doubts and for being our strength. Amen.

Jul 14—John 9:1-25, 35-38, Psalm 146

Lord Jesus, help us see the beauty of Your works all around us, including in times of struggle. Amen.

Jul 15—Galatians 5:13-26, Psalm 1

Lord God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thank You for producing Your fruit in us. Help us resist temptation and to always walk in the ways of Your Spirit. Amen.

Jul 16—1 Corinthians 13:4-13, Psalm 36

Lord God, guide us to love more perfectly because You first loved us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jul 17—Revelations 5, Psalm 30

Lord, make us ever mindful of all You have done for us so that we may joyfully praise You forever. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jul 18—Isaiah 33:2, 20-22, Psalm 48

Lord, thank You for using Your authority as judge to show mercy through Jesus, our Savior. In His name. Amen.

Jul 19—Jeremiah 33:2-3, 14-16, Psalm 145:1-13

Lord, we praise You for revealing to us the great gift of salvation that is ours in Jesus. Work through us to lead others to the treasure of Jesus that they, too, may know these great and hidden things. In His name. Amen.

Jul 20—2 Corinthians 5:16-21, Psalm 51:1-12

Lord, thank You for sending Jesus to take our sin. May we see our brothers and sisters in Christ as You see them and rejoice together to be in Your family. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jul 21—Hebrews 10:5-23, Psalm 40:6-13

Lord, You are faithful. Thank You for the sure hope of forgiveness and salvation that we have in Jesus, our Savior. In His name we pray. Amen.

Jul 22—John 20:1-18, Psalm 90:13-17

Father, thank You for Your servant Mary Magdalene and, in the telling of her story, pointing us to Jesus. Like her, may we be ever satisfied with Your steadfast love. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jul 23—Job 19:23-27, Psalm 119:49-58

Lord, turn my eyes to my Redeemer that I may have hope. For this is my comfort in my affliction, that Your promise gives me life. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jul 24—2 Samuel 12:1-15, Psalm 51:1-12

Lord, show me my sin and then turn my eyes to Jesus for forgiveness. In His name I pray. Amen.

Jul 25—Matthew 17:1-8, Psalm 24

Lord, keep our eyes on Jesus as we wait for the joyful day when we will see Him face-to-face. In His name. Amen.

Jul 26—Romans 6:3-11, Psalm 103:1-12

Lord Jesus, thank You for winning the victory over death for me. Teach me to live this life dead to sin and alive in You. Amen.

Jul 27—Mark 6:30-44, Psalm 68:1-10

Lord Jesus, may we joyfully go where You feed us Your Word and Sacrament. May we eat and be satisfied. Amen.

Jul 28—Luke 2:25-33, Psalm 27:4-14

Lord, thank You for strengthening and preserving us through this Holy Meal. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jul 29—1 Corinthians 12:18-27, Psalm 89:8-18

Lord, thank You for arranging us into one Body to do Your work in the world and to care for one another. Give us the strength to carry out our calling together. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jul 30—Ephesians 4:11-16, Psalm 25:4-15

Lord Jesus, You are our Redeemer. Grow us to speak the truth in love. Amen.

Jul 31—John 17:6-19, Psalm 119:73-80

Lord, give us joy as we are washed by Your Holy Word. In Jesus' name. 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 AUGUST ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS, SATURDAY, JULY 15.



UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

WELCA LUNCHEON POSTPONED TO A LATER DATE

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

BIBLE STUDY @ BETHANY

AUG 15 1 PM



WHAT'S HAPPENING!!



NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

July 16, 2023

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!



POTLUCK DINNER

Potluck will start again in September



Bible Study Update

Wednesday Afternoon Bible Studies: Wednesday Bible Study group will be taking a July Break and returning on August 9th at 1pm in the Basement Fellowship Hall. For August 9th, we will be continuing our series on the Gospel of John with John Ch 6. These have been great conversations and hope to see you 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. We will now be on the back half of this series and will begin prep for a new series in September. Below is the schedule for the upcoming months:

July Months

July 4th: NO STUDY-PASTOR AWAY

July 18th: *Christmas Cheer & Certainty*

August Months

August 1st: NO STUDY-PASTOR AWAY

August 15th: *Restoration, Ordinary Time, & Wrap Up*

Lutheran Day at the Altoona Curve

Sunday, August 13th



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

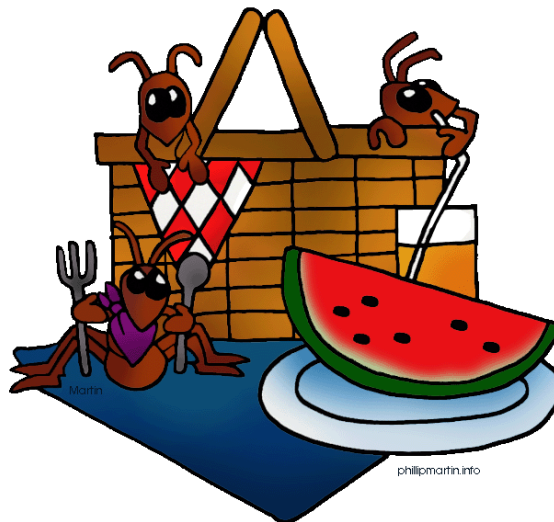
Tickets -
\$7.00/each



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

Summer Picnic Worship!

Summer is in full swing and we are loving it. One of our favorite activities include Outdoor Picnic Worships. We had our first Picnic in June and was an especially good time. We will be continue to gathering at Highland Park, Pavilion 2, for these Outdoor Picnic Worship during the summer, on the 2nd Sunday, at 10am as a combined service between Bethany & St. James. The remaining 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. For our friends who join us via YouTube for worship, a digital pre-recorded version will be available at 10am. If something changes with these picnics, we will keep you in the loop.





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.



St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

**1407 Eighth Avenue
Altoona, PA 16602**

814-944-6835

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



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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