



Kirchenblatt August 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

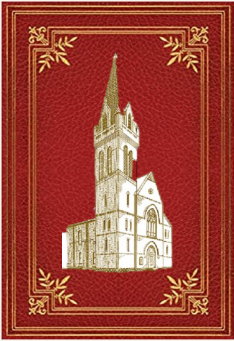
EMAIL: STJAMESALTOONA@GMAIL.COM

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 July/August 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

May 2022

Contributions \$1,560
Average Weekly Attendance: 12

May 2023

Contributions \$120
Average Weekly Attendance: 10

INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY

May 1, 2023 - May 31, 2023

INCOME

Bank Interest	\$0.00
Contributions	
General	\$120.00
Designated	\$0.00
Special	\$100.00
Other Income	\$4000.00
	\$4,220.00

EXPENSES

Pastoral Administration	\$882.86
Worship & Music	\$869.54
Office	\$1,435.24
Custodial & Property	\$1,14.23
Uncategorized	\$88.80
	\$4,890.67

August Birthdays

- Doug Kauffman 8/8
- Sylvia Malsatzki 8/17
- Gigi Manbeck 8/29
- Sarah Sakoff 8/26



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

Aug 1—Genesis 11:1-9, Psalm 96
Living up, O Lord, lead me faithfully to live in and out. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Aug 2—Numbers 6:22-27, Psalm 135
Lord, bind Yourself to me this day in thought, word, and deed. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Aug 3—Matthew 11:25-30, Psalm 84
Drawn to the well of Your Word, O Lord, bid me drink deeply and be renewed. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Aug 4—1 Peter 3:13-22, Psalm 66
Precious Savior, Jesus, as You died for me, enable me today to live freely for You and others. Amen.

Aug 5—Mathew 5:21-26, 38-48, Psalm 25
Freely and fully forgiven, help me, blessed Savior, Jesus, to freely and fully forgive. Amen.

Aug 6—Ephesians 5:1-12, Psalm 128
Blessed Savior, let me be a fragrant offering and sacrifice toward the women and men in my life. In Your name, Jesus, I pray. Amen.

Aug 7—Luke 19:1-10, Psalm 119:1-16
Lord, You gave everything; enable me to return to You what is Yours, blessing others and giving witness to Your name. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Aug 8—Matthew 7:1-12, Psalm 141
"Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips!" (Psalm 141:3). In Jesus' name. Amen.

Aug 9—1 Timothy 6:6-16, Psalm 115
Lord, thank You for giving me what I need. Keep me this day from an unhealthy desire for what I don't. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Aug 10—Matthew 5:1-12, Psalm 34
Lord, I rejoice to be forgiven and redeemed; now, out of an abundance of Your grace, help me to do. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Aug 11—2 Corinthians 4:7-18, Psalm 40
Lord, make me new, today and every day, in the confession of my faith. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Aug 12—Job 40:1-14, Psalm 104:24-35
Gracious Lord, continue to hold me and this place that I (for now) call home in Your hands. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Aug 13—Romans 8:31-39, Psalm 26

Thank You, Jesus, that nothing can separate me from the life I have in You.

Amen.

Aug 14—Philippians 2:1-11, Psalm 146

O Holy Spirit, descend on us, tethering us to Your grace and to one another. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Aug 15—Romans 1:1-12, Psalm 133-134

Lord, thank You for my church home. Help me see them as You do: one, holy, and Christian. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Aug 16—Genesis 22:1-14, Psalm 86

Lord, You are, just as I am. Thank You for sending Jesus, in Your time, to save me for today and for eternity. In His name we pray. Amen.

Aug 17—Hebrews 11:1-16, Psalm 116

Precious Savior, Jesus, thank You for knowing me and giving me eternal life in Your name, even as I long to see You face-to-face. Amen.

Aug 18—Acts 19:11-20, Psalm 65

O Holy Trinity, thank You for putting Your name on and in me. Help me this day to wear it well. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Aug 19—Luke 19:28-40, Psalm 2

"May ev'ry heart confess Your name, Forever You adore, And, seeking You, itself inflame To seek You more and more" (*LSB* 554:4). In Jesus' name. Amen.

Aug 20—Philippians 4:10-20, Psalm 145

Thank You, Father, for supplying my every need, physical and spiritual. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Aug 21—Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 103:1-13

Father, thank You for securing our peace, signed, sealed, and delivered through my Jesus, my Prince of Peace. In His name. Amen.

Aug 22—Matthew 4:1-11, Psalm 5

O Lord Jesus, see me on my way this day with a backpack full of Your gifts of grace. Amen.

Aug 23—Ephesians 6:10-20, Psalm 6

Father, thank You for receiving my prayers this day for myself and Your Church. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Aug 24—Luke 22:24-30, Psalm 121

Meet me, Lord, as Yours is the kingdom, power, and glory forever. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Aug 25—Matthew 22:1-14, Psalm 23

Lord, "Let me confess my faith sincerely; Help me Your faithful child to be!" (LSB 590:4). In Jesus' name. Amen.

Aug 26—1 John 1:1-2:2, Psalm 32

Lord, open Your ears to my confession and my ears to Your forgiveness. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Aug 27—Luke 7:11-17, Psalm 130

Forgiven by You, O Lord, let me be a witness to Your love. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Aug 28—Exodus 29:38-46, Psalm 63

Lord Jesus, tasting and seeing that You are good, let Your mercy rain down on me in this meal. Amen.

Aug 29—John 15:1-11, Psalm 31

O Lord, because You are, I am. Thank You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Aug 30—Romans 12:1-8, Psalm 90

For the privilege of being in this time and place, O Lord, I thank You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Aug 31—2 Corinthians 9:6-15, Psalm 148

Amen. Let it be so, Lord! 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 SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS, TUESDAY, AUGUST 15.



UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

WELCA LUNCHEON POSTPONED TO A LATER DATE	
SUMMER PICNIC WORSHIP	AUG 13 10 AM
LUTHERAN DAY AT THE CURVE	AUG 13
BIBLE STUDY @ BETHANY	AUG 15 1 PM
AWSO DAY OF RENEWAL	AUG 26 8:30-1:30
POTLUCK	SEP 17 12 PM
SWEETS AND TREATS	OCT 1 10:30 AM
COUNCIL MEETING	OCT 8 12 PM



WHAT'S HAPPENING!!



NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

October 8, 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

Next Potluck September 17



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 are 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:

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.

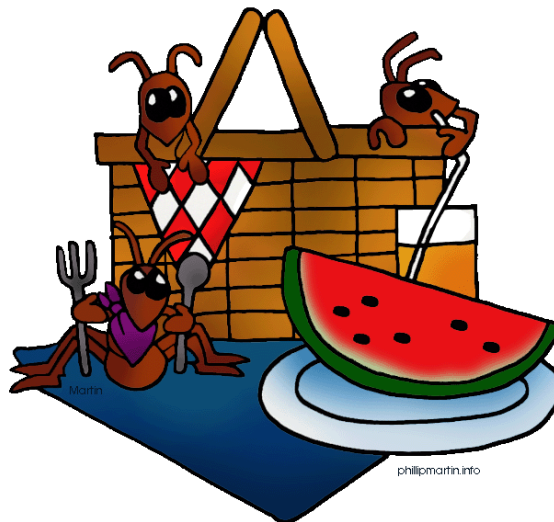
Tickets -
\$7.00/each



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 Worship. 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 date is 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.



Welcome August

New month, new day, new life.

May this new month bring you
happiness, love, peace and
an abundance of blessings,
satisfaction and victory.

May God fill your life with
happiness beyond material
possessions, & all the desires
of your heart be granted.

Kelly's
Treehouse

I pray August
brings you peace,
renewal and all
perfect gifts
from up above.

Amen

Allegheny Synodical Women's Organization

Day of Renewal

“The Old is Gone, The New is Here”

Saturday, August 26, 2023

9:00 to approximately 1:30

Altoona Grand Hotel, Tropical Courtyard

1 Sheraton Drive, Altoona, PA

Registration begins at 8:30 AM with coffee and pastries

Scheduled sessions include paint pouring, exercise, craft, and global service. Our keynote speaker, Pastor Rebecca West.

Join us for a day of fellowship and fun, and lunch!

Please complete the registration form on the next page.

Deadline—August 16, 2023

Cost \$10 check made out to Allegheny SWO

Mail to: Donna College, 188 Graybill Road, Osterburg PA 16667

ALLEGHENY SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION
DAY OF RENEWAL

The Altoona Grand Hotel, 1 Sheraton Drive, Altoona, PA
Saturday, August 26, 2023

REGISTRATION FORM

(Please complete a separate form for each person attending. Make copies as needed.)

ALL REGISTRATIONS ARE DUE August 16, 2023

Name _____
(first) (last)

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Congregation _____

City _____

Registration Fee: \$10.00

Please send check or money order (payable to Allegheny SWO) to:

Donna College

188 Grabill Road

Osterburg PA 16667

7 Prayers for



May your finances multiply.

May your health improve.

May your family be loved.

May your friends be blessed.

May your pains lessen.

May your worries disappear.

May God bless you.

Amen.



The Horse Mafia

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