



Kirchenblatt September 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

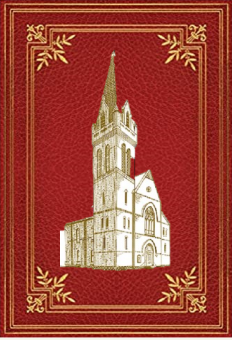
EMAIL: STJAMESALTOONA@GMAIL.COM

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 September 2023

Pastor's September Musings

United in Christ-Synod Assembly Review

Fall is always a unique season in the year. The color of the leaves change, the air cools and gets crisper (whatever crisper means), we swap out sunflowers for pumpkins & apple cider, and the school year begins again. I would say how the “programming year of the church” starts again but we have had a busy summer. Our combined picnic worships with Bethany have done very well. We are further exploring some future gatherings because these seemed to be enjoyed by all. There are the various other activities our various partners have had throughout the synod.

Fall is no different for the type of changes we have at St James. Our worship service will have some fall/harvest undertones, we have the assorted fall festival Sundays of Reformation, All Saints, and conclude with Christ the King in November before transitioning into Advent, we also continue to explore the various ways in which the Spirit is calling us to do ministry in our respective communities. It is always a unique time as we enter into this phase of the calendar year & the church year as we reflect and as we consider where the life of the Church continues moving forward.

At our last picnic worship, the gospel text was the calming of the sea/Peter stepping out of the boat to meet Jesus. This is a unique text for a variety of reasons, but I am always struck with just the difference of encounters between the disciples and just how this similar encounter plays out for us today. In the case of the gospel lesson, we have the disciples who are petrified on the boat by everything happening from the storm to whether they are seeing a ghost as Jesus walks on the water. Peter, who I am suspecting also has a sense of trepidation follows Jesus call to “come out” onto the waters. There are a variety of ways in which we as followers of Jesus are terrified to step out and want to stay on the boat (even if it isn’t the safest option). Yet, there are those moments in which we, even in our uncertain and terror, take the step to see what Jesus has instore for us.

Stepping off the boat to meet Jesus may include the realization of sinking a bit because we have either lost sight or got a little too ahead of ourselves. Yet, Jesus still reaches out to us to say “you are on the right path” and gives us the opportunity to continue to live into this life of faith and grace. Jesus also continues to speak to those of us still on the boat, not to shame us but to say in due time and with a little help we also will step out to walk with Jesus. I think many of us are afraid to take this step because we have a little fear how we are the only ones on those waters but Jesus will remind us how we aren’t doing this alone.

Friends, as we continue into this season of calling and change, as we hear Jesus call out to us to come and we are uncertain if the boat of the crashing waters is the best place to be...may we be reminded how in this journey of faith, we do so as a community and we do so with Christ who continues to be the hand reaching out and guiding us, always.

Pastor Drew

Contribution & Attendance Summary

June 2022

Contributions \$1,277
Average Weekly Attendance: 11

June 2023

Contributions \$387
Average Weekly Attendance: 9

INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY

June 1, 2023 - June 30, 2023

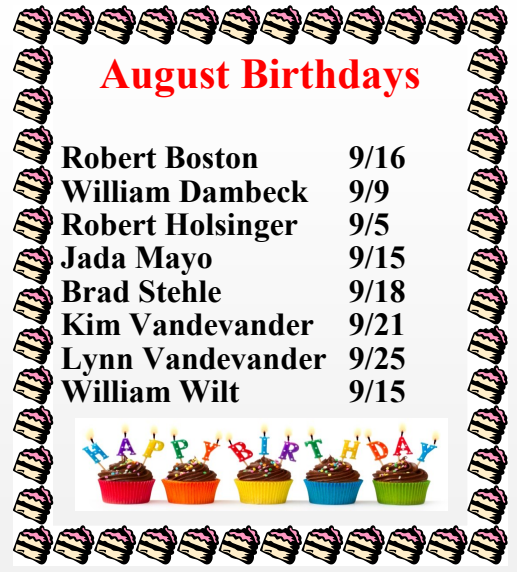
INCOME

Bank Interest	\$0.00
Contributions	
General	\$387.00
Designated	\$0.00
Special	\$100.00
Other Income	\$4,000.00
	\$4,387.00

EXPENSES

Pastoral Administration	\$599.72
Worship & Music	\$637.54
Office	\$1,223.39
Custodial & Property	\$1,224.72
Uncategorized	\$47.00
	\$3,732.37

August Birthdays



- Robert Boston 9/16
- William Dambeck 9/9
- Robert Holsinger 9/5
- Jada Mayo 9/15
- Brad Stehle 9/18
- Kim Vandevander 9/21
- Lynn Vandevander 9/25
- William Wilt 9/15



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

Sep 1—Luke 24:13-35, Psalm 111

Lord Jesus Christ, You alone are the way, the truth, and the life. Be our guide each day. Amen.

Sep 2—John 1:1-17, Psalm 33:1-9

Jesus, full of grace and glory, keep us safe by Your Word. Amen.

Sep 3—Hebrews 1, Psalm 104:5-30

“O LORD, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom have You made them all” (Psalm 104:24). In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Sep 4—Matthew 16:13-17, Psalm 42:1-8

Lord, Jesus Christ, You are our confession. Let us rejoice in the gift of forgiveness that is ours through You. Grant us strength and rest for each day. Amen.

Sep 5—Colossians 1:15-23, Psalm 96:1-3

“Sing to the LORD, bless His name; tell of His salvation from day to day” (Psalm 96:2). In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Sep 6—Genesis 1:3-31, Psalm 136:1-9

“Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever” (Psalm 136:1). In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Sep 7—Exodus 20:8-11, Psalm 29:1-9

“Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness” (Psalm 29:1–2). In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Sep 8—Exodus 3:13-21, Psalm 46

“Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth!” (Psalm 46:10). In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Sep 9—Matthew 3:13-17, Psalm 2

Heavenly Father, as we daily remember our Baptism, may we be ever grateful for the gifts of forgiveness of sins, life eternal, and salvation. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Sep 10—Matthew 28:16-20, Psalm 115:1-15

“Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to Your name give glory, for the sake of Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness!” (Psalm 115:1). In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Sep 11—Revelation 21:1-6, Psalm 8

Almighty God, heavenly Father, we thank You for the gift of Your Son, Jesus, our redeemer and refuge. May the cross of Jesus remind us that You have conquered sin, death, and the devil. In His name we pray. Amen.

Sep 12—Exodus 3:1-12, Psalm 106:43-48

“Save us, O LORD our God, and gather us from among the nations, that we may give thanks to Your holy name and glory in Your praise” (Psalm 106:47). In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Sep 13—Exodus 13:17-22, Psalm 105:26-39

Lord Jesus Christ, be our constant guide as we set out on our pilgrim way. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Sep 14—Exodus 14:15-31, Psalm 106: 1-12

Merciful God, You sent Your only Son to be our Good Shepherd. May His Word guide and protect us through the wilderness of this life. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 15—Joshua 3:11-17, Psalm 114

Eternal God, through the gift of Your Son, Jesus, You free us from the bonds of Satan and give us eternal life. Grant us the grace to live out our baptismal life each day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 16—1 Corinthians 10:1-5, Psalm 78:13-25

Gracious Father, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, we have all we need for this body and life. We thank and praise You for Your gifts of mercy and salvation. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 17—Luke 9:51-53, Psalm 146

Lord Jesus, walk with us on this journey of life. Show us Your way of love and mercy. Amen.

Sep 18—Genesis 3, Psalm 71:1-3

"In You, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame!" (Psalm 71:1). In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 19—Genesis 6:5-22, Psalm 14

Lord Jesus Christ, You are our sanctuary and our shelter from the storms of this world. Amen.

Sep 20—2 Kings 2:1-14, Psalm 25:1-10

"Make me to know Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all the day long" (Psalm 25:4-5). In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 21—Luke 18:35-43, Psalm 89:1-29

Lord God, merciful Father, You sent Your only Son, Jesus, into the world to be our physician of body and soul. May Your mercy open our eyes to the gift of Your healing love and compassion. Through Your Son's name we pray. Amen.

Sep 22—Luke 9:28-36, Psalm 104:1-4

O God, You knit Your people together in the mystical union of Your Son, Jesus Christ. As we journey toward our promised land, grant us strength for the road. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 23—Exodus 12:21-28, Psalm 51:1-12

Lord Jesus Christ, Your bitter suffering and death bring us life. You are our Passover Lamb, cleansing us with Your blood. Quench our parched lips with the touch of Your mercy. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Sep 24—Exodus 15:22-27, Psalm 23

Almighty God, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus, You overcame death, sin, and the devil. May our sufferings be sweetened by the sufferings of our Lord. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 25—Numbers 21:1-9, Psalm 36:7-12

"How precious is Your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of Your wings" (Psalm 36:7). In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 26—Leviticus 17, Psalm 116:12-19

"What shall I render to the LORD for all His benefits to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD" (Psalm 116:12). In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 27—Exodus 25:8-22, Psalm 99:1-5

Dear Jesus, You offered Your lifeblood on the cross and redeemed the world by Your perfect sacrifice of mercy. Feed us with the food of immortality. Amen.

Sep 28—Exodus 26:31-34, Psalm 80:1-7

Almighty God, by the death and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, You usher us into life immortal. Keep us steadfast in the faith when we are beset by the trials of life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Sep 29—Revelation 12:7-11, Psalm 19:7-14

Eternal God, You have given us Your holy angels to guard and protect us. Keep us steadfast in the faith. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 30—Isaiah 65:17-25, Psalm 147:1-11

Lord Jesus Christ, our Creator and Redeemer, we thank You for the gift of Your healing love. Be our source of strength and peace. 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 OCTOBER ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15.



UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

WELCA LUNCHEON POSTPONED TO A LATER DATE

ST JAMES SUNDAY

SEP 17

POTLUCK

SEP 17 12 PM

BETHANY SUNDAY WORSHIP & POTLUCK

SEP 24 10 AM

SWEETS AND TREATS

OCT 1 10 AM

BLESSING OF PETS

OCT 1 4 PM

*Bethany Lutheran Parking Lot

COUNCIL MEETING

OCT 8 12 PM

REFORMATION SUNDAY

OCT 29

ALLEGHENY CHORALE CONCERT

DEC 3 3 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

Faith on Tap (NEW SERIES ALERT)- We just finished our series by Kate Bowler. We are switching gears to do a book study on Richard Rohr's *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*. A description about Rohr's book-*In the first half of life, we are naturally preoccupied with establishing ourselves; climbing, achieving, and performing. But as we grow older and encounter challenges and mistakes, we need to see ourselves in a different and more life-giving way. This message of falling down - that is in fact moving upward - is the most resisted and counterintuitive of messages in the world's religions.* Join us on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the Month at Marzoni's in Greenwood at 6p.

Wednesday Bible Study: We are continuing our series on the Gospel of John. Join us at 1pm on Wednesdays, downstairs in the Fellowship Hall!

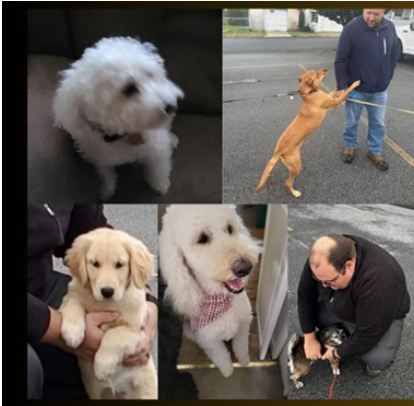
We hope you will take part in our various Bible Study offerings.



REFORMATION SUNDAY

Reformation Sunday is around the corner. Wear Red on Oct 29th.

Reformation Sunday is a special day for those of us in the Lutheran Church. We as Lutherans and many Protestant Churches celebrate on the Last Sunday of October “Reformation Sunday” where Martin Lutheran called for a conversation of the Church. We celebrate this moving of the Holy Spirit by wearing RED for the day. See you on October 29th as we celebrate the Spirit which continues to move in the Church.



BLESSING OF THE PETS

Bethany Lutheran Church , Parking Lot
October 1st, 2023 at 4:00 pm

Bring your Pet (on a leash or in a crate) or
 a photo to be blessed and receive a treat!

206 3rd Ave, Altoona, PA 16602



Blessing of the Pets: Oct 1st

On Sunday, October 1st at 4:00 p.m. in Bethany’s church parking lot, we will celebrate The Blessing of the Animals and commemorate the memory of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals. This is especially special because St. Francis of Assisi is celebrated on October 4th every year!! Because of this, we will celebrate The Blessing of the Animals and commemorate them. Bring your furry, scaly, or fishy friend for a blessing and short liturgy. We ask that pets are either in crates or on a leash. Even though, snakes are Pastor’s least favorite animal (no offense), he will bless them as well. If your pet has problems with other animals, please be sure you can control them or you are welcome to bring a photo of your pet for blessing.

Special Worship Services & Time Changes for September

St James Sunday

Sept 17th 10:45am Worship & Potluck

St James will be having a special celebration on Sept 17th and you are invited! St James is ringing in their 163rd year of being a community and have invited us to be a part of it. We will be joined by our friends from Bethany for one service on the 17th as gather for our 10:45am worship service and will then join together for a potluck celebration after worship. The main dish will be provided and everyone is asked to bring a side dish to the event.



Bethany Sunday, Sept 24th 10am Worship & Potluck

Did you know that Bethany Lutheran is celebrating its 130th birthday, this year??? Bethany is celebrating by having an inaugural annual birthday celebration. We will gather together, at 10am for a celebratory worship service and have a special potluck to follow (this is a combined service with St James). We will be joining our Bethany friends in this special celebration as a thank you for joining us for our special birthday, the previous week! We hope you will join us on September 24th. *We are asking individuals who's last name begins with A-M bring a side and L-Z bring a dessert for the celebration, the main dish will be provided.*





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 wonderful day.



**The Allegheny Chorale presents their 39th Season
Christmas Concert**

St. James Lutheran Church

December 3, 2023

3PM

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