

St. James Evangelical **Lutheran Church** September 3, 2023 14th Sunday after Pentecost Communion

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 vou please sign our quest 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 Thine Is The Greatness Chester Nordman (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 Sprit. **Amen.**

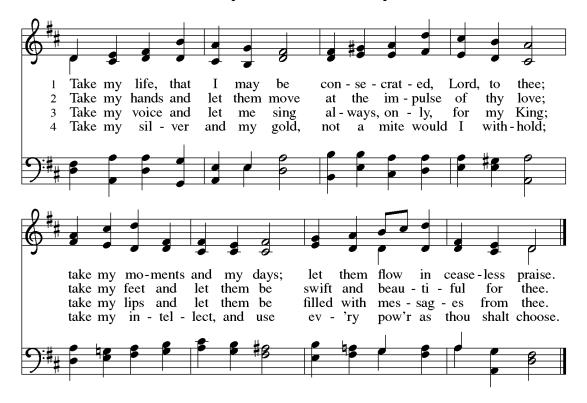
We Gather

*GATHERING SONG:

Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW 685

Take My Life, That I May Be



5 Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store; take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt. Music: PATMOS, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

*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.



*CANTICLE OF PRAISE





*PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Let us pray.

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

We Listen to the Word

First Reading:

Jeremiah 15:15-21

A reading from Jeremiah.

¹⁵O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of

hosts.

¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly,

you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them.

²⁰And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD.

²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

The word of the Lord Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 26:1-8

¹Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity; I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

²Test me, O LORD, and try me; examine my heart and my mind.

- ³For your steadfast love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you.
- ⁴I have not sat with the worthless, nor do I consort with the deceitful.
- ⁵I have hated the company of evildoers; I will not sit down with the wicked.
- ⁶I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD, that I may go in procession round your altar,
- ⁷singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and recounting all your wonderful deeds.
- ⁸LORD, I love the house in which you dwell and the place where your glory abides.

Solo: Bob Hench Celtic Communion

Second Reading:

Romans 12:9-21

A reading from Romans.

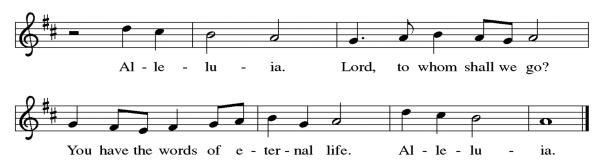
⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of

the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The word of the Lord Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Matthew 16:21-28



²¹From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Sermon



We Respond to the Word

*Hymn of the Day:

ELW 667

Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said



Text: Charles W. Everest, 1814–1877, alt. Music: BOUKBON, W. Hauser, *Hesperian Harp*, 1848; arr. hymnal version Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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*Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven.

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

God of life, your words are the joy at the heart of your church. Draw the seeker to you, place messages of hope and healing in the mouths of your witnesses, and open your children to your truth when we stumble. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God of steadfast love, renew the earth by your Spirit, that lands and oceans reveal the beauty of your creation. Challenge us to live humbly and peaceably as part of your world. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God of patience, lead those who govern to hold fast to what is good. Guide them to show honor to the people in their care. Overcome evil in all nations and grant peace to peoples and places mired in conflict (*especially*). Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God of deliverance, remember all who are suffering, lonely, and in pain. Liberate your people being insulted, persecuted, or in the grasp of the ruthless. Give endurance to workers who persevere on this Labor Day and insure fair wages and safe working environments. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God of justice, equip this congregation to boldly follow you in uncertain times and to remain faithful in prayer when facing challenges. Show us how best to love and care for one another and our communities. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of glory, we give thanks for the saints who now dwell with you in splendor (*especially*). Nurture us in faith until the day we join their heavenly song. Merciful God.

receive our prayer.

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

- *Sharing of the Peace
- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C And also with you.

We Offer Our Gifts

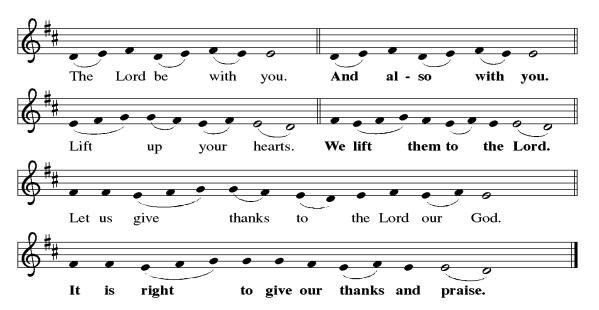
*Offering Prayer:

P: 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.

We Share the Feast

*Holy Communion



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ, who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



*Thanksgiving at the Table

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.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus 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."

For as often as we eat this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

*The Lord's Prayer

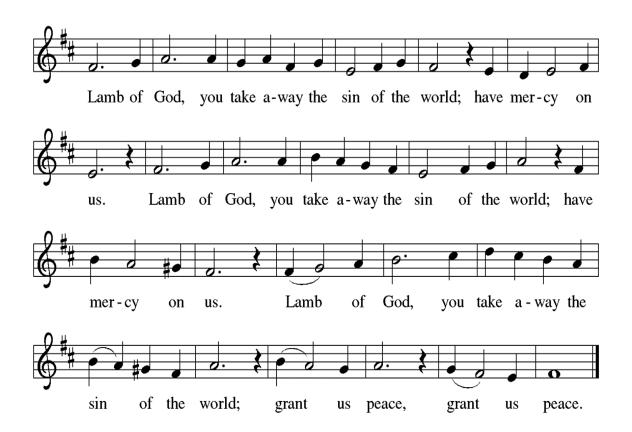
Lord remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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.

*Invitation to Communion

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

Lamb of God



*Communion Distribution

*Post-Communion Blessing

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

C: Amen

*Song after Communion:



12 Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



*Prayer after Communion

P: Let us pray.

Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: 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: Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing ELW 545
NFXT PAGE

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Recessional Gloria Charles Sergisson

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing



Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, sts. 1–2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 3, alt. Music: SICILIAN MARINERS, Sicilian, 18th cent.

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: In their own homes:

Janet Kauffman Deborah Manbeck







UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

WELCA LUNCHEON POSTPONED TO A LATER DATE ST JAMES SUNDAY **SEP 17 SEP 17 12 PM** POTLUCK **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 33 PM**







NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

October 8, 2023



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!



Next Potluck September 17

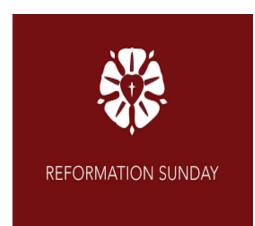


Bible Study Update

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 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: 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.

<u>Special Worship Services & Time Changes</u> 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

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.