

St. James Evangelical **Lutheran Church September 17, 2023** 16th Sunday after Pentecost St. James Sunday 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 Basse et Dessus de Trompette Louis Clerambault (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

Rejoice, for Christ Is King!



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt. Music: LAUS REGIS, William E. Fischer, 1849–1936

*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 Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

We Listen to the Word

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

A reading from Genesis.

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The word of the Lord Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13

[¹Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

⁵who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

⁶O LORD, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

²Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits—

³who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

⁴who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;

- ⁷You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.]
- ⁸LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;
- ⁹you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.
- ¹⁰You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.
- ¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.
- ¹²As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us.
- ¹³As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

Second Reading:

Romans 14:1-12

A reading from Romans.

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

¹¹For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The word of the Lord Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





*GOSPEL: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Matthew 18:21-35



²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' 29Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you, 30 But he refused: then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. 31When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. 32 Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' 34And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. 35So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive vour brother or sister from your heart."

The Gospel of the Lord.



We Respond to the Word

*Hymn of the Day:

ELW 359

Where Charity and Love Prevail



Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt. Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842

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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.

We pray for the church. Bless the missions and ministries of diverse congregations, that they uplift the good news of salvation in ways that can be understood. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and healing to rivers clogged with pollution. Enrich the soil for trees and plants. Protect the crops needed to feed those who hunger. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We pray for all who govern. Encourage those in positions of power to lead with empathy, practice forgiveness, and care for those who struggle. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

We pray for our neighbors who face illness of any kind. For those strained financially; for all living with chronic pain, mental illness, the disease of addiction, or otherwise afraid or in harm's way. Protect all who cry out for mercy (*especially*). Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We pray for this congregation. Open our hearts to practice intentional invitation. Help us to forgive each other, practice patience, and choose welcome over judgment. Move us to care for those in our community seeking refuge and safety. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for the saints who died in faith. Show us how to live faithfully, creatively, and lovingly in your church and world (*like Hildegard*, *Abbess of Bingen*, *whom we commemorate today*). 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

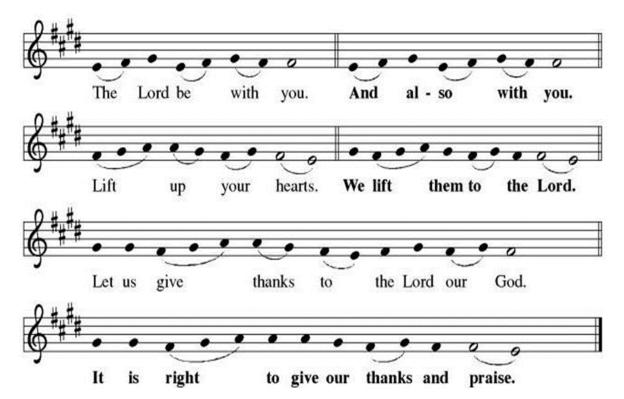
*Offering Prayer:

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, 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.

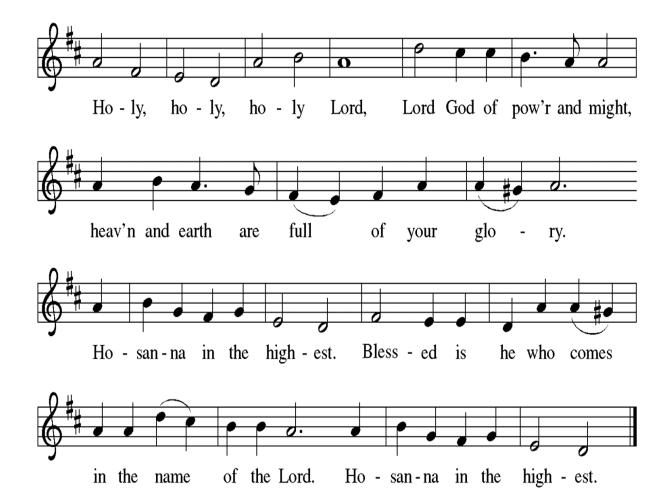
We Share the Feast

*Holy Communion



P: 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.

Today we receive the Holy Eucharist through elements that have been pre-consecrated on this altar by Pastor Folmar.

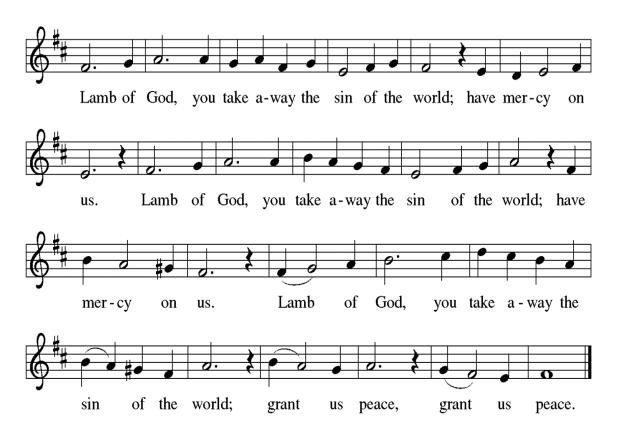
In the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist we are told that on the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, gave it for all to eat saying, "This is my body given for you, do this for the remembrance of me". Again after supper, we are told, that he took the cup, gave thanks, 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 sins, 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. 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—The Communion cups are opened at this time. Remove the Communion wafer from the cup—**P**: Body of Christ given for you.

Remove wrapper from Wine cup—**P:** Blood of Christ shed for you.

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

C: Amen

^{*}Post-Communion Blessing

*Song after Communion:



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:

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

ELW 864

NEXT PAGE

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Recessional:

God's Peace Is Mine

Ethel C. Phillips







Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven



Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847; alt. Walter R. Bouman, 1927–2005 Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800–1880

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:

ST JAMES SUNDAY TODAY	SEP 17
POTLUCK TODAY	SEP 17 12 PM
BETHANY SUNDAY WORSHIP & POTLUCK	SEP 24 10 AM
SWEETS AND TREATS	OCT 1 10 AM
BLESSING OF PETS	OCT 14 PM
*Bethany Lutheran Parking Lot	
COUNCIL MEETING	OCT 8 12 PM
OCTOBERFEST	OCT 22 12 PM
WELCA MEETING	OCT 28
*Time and Place TBD	
REFORMATION SUNDAY	OCT 29
ALLEGHENY CHORALE CONCERT	DEC 3 3 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 Today September 17

The Allegheny Chorale presents their 39th Season Christmas Concert



St. James Lutheran Church December 3, 2023

3PM

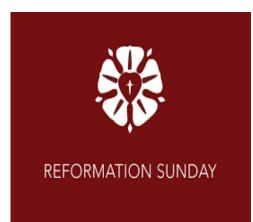


Bible Study Update

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.







October 22, 2023

Dinner will be served following the Worship Service.
Dinner to include Sauerkraut, Pork, Mashed Potatoes, Kneadles (German Bread Dumpling) with Gravy, Hot German Potato Salad, Hot Dogs & Rolls, applesauce and drinks.

We are asking members to bring a side dish, vegetable or dessert.

Hosted By: Robin and John Kessler



St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.