



Kirchenblatt November 2023

(Parish Newsletter)

St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church
1407 Eighth Avenue
Altoona, PA 16602



Join us for Worship Sundays at 10:45 am

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Vice Pastor's Report	2-3	Prayer List	4	Announcements	8-17
Financials	4	Daily Readings	5-7	Poinsettia Order Form	18
Birthdays	4	WELCA	14	Committee List	20

**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

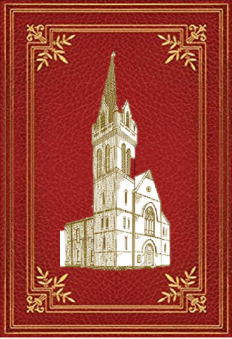
EMAIL: STJAMESALTOONA@GMAIL.COM

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 November 2023

Pastor's November Musings

One of my favorite holidays is around the corner and it is Thanksgiving. This is a time where we gather with friends or family, depending on your respective tradition, where we reflect on the year and consider some time to give thanks. It is also a time to enjoy a variety of foods. I remember two things growing up when it came to Thanksgiving. The first was the assorted pies my great aunt would make. She would make assorted pies from scratch and let me tell you something...Marie Calendar was never as good as a pie made by Dorothy. Pastor Amanda, my wife, is not really a bread or crust person when it comes to pies but she would always brag how there was just something about Dorothy's crust.

The other aspect when always stands out for me when it came to Thanksgiving was how there was always someone different at these gathers. It would either be a family friend, some family member who randomly came into town, or just someone else. I know for some, this seem a little bit of a headache because we typically want to associate Thanksgiving with a time for family. I use the term "family" loosely. There is a wonderful story of how one thanksgiving where an accidental wrong text message invitation has become a beautiful tradition. If you do not know about this story, look up Jamal Hinton & Wanda Dench as how an accidental text message has created an almost 7-year relationship.

Thanksgiving is much like the Eucharist, it is a place where everyone is welcome to the table. In this world we have a variety of differences which can easily separate us but when it comes to the invitation of Christ...there are no differences, there are no separations. Jesus calls out to us, whether we are perfect examples of the faith or as individuals who live in the shadows, there is a place for you to receive God's invitation. As we begin to enter into this holiday season of Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas, may we be the inviting presence of Christ to remind people there is a place at the table for you. Enjoy a slice of God's grace.

Pastor Drew



Contribution & Attendance Summary
August 2022
Contributions \$335
Average Weekly Attendance: 10
August 2023
Contributions \$785
Average Weekly Attendance: 9

November Birthdays

Susan Boston	11/17
William Green	11/25
Kasey Porter	11/29
Edith Trinks	11/5

INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY	
August 1, 2023 - August 31, 2023	
INCOME	
Bank Interest	\$0.00
Contributions	
General	\$785.00
Designated	\$0.00
Special	\$50.00
Other Income	\$4,000.00
	\$4,835.00
EXPENSES	
Pastoral Administration	\$609.72
Worship & Music	\$587.54
Office	\$1,462.32
Custodial & Property	\$2,070.93
Uncategorized	\$0.00
	\$4,730.51

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

Nov 1—1 Corinthians 1:2-9, Psalm 1

Gracious Jesus, grant me such faith in You that confesses my sin and trusts You to be my sanctification. Increase my confidence that, through Baptism, the Word, and the Spirit, You have made me Your own and called me a saint. Amen.

Nov 2—Mark 1:1-11, Psalm 2

Gracious Savior, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, thank You for the very good news of Your full and free salvation. Amen.

Nov 3—Mark 1:12-15, 35-39, Psalm 19:7-14

Lord, by Your Word and Spirit, lead me daily to true repentance and faith through the Gospel of Christ and His cross. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Nov 4—Mark 2:1-12, Psalm 32

Almighty Father, give us faith to believe the miraculous forgiveness Your pastors declare to us in Jesus' name. Amen.

Nov 5—Mark 3:22-30, Psalm 86:1-13

Almighty God, thank You for redeeming us through Your Son and transferring us to Your kingdom of life and light through faith in Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Nov 6—Mark 4:1-9, 14-20, Psalm 119:81-88

Gracious Jesus, You came among us, spreading the seed of Your Word to those who would hear and those who would not. Help me selflessly scatter Your Word among all those whom You put in my life. Amen.

Nov 7—Mark 4:26-34, Psalm 145:1-13

Lord Jesus, cause the Word of the cross to grow and flourish so Your Church may be enlarged and be a blessing to all the earth. Amen.

Nov 8—Mark 4:35-41, Psalm 121

In God, my faithful God, I trust when dark my road; Great woes may overtake me, Yet He will not forsake me. My troubles He can alter; His hand lets nothing falter (LSB 745:1). Amen.

Nov 9—Mark 5:1-20, Psalm 27:1-6, 11-14

Gracious Jesus, You lead us to cry to You for mercy. Deliver us from all our sins and fears. Amen.

Nov 10—Exodus 34:1-10, Psalm 106:1-6, 47-48

Gracious God, forgive me of all my sin through Jesus and clothe me in His righteousness, that I may be and remain Your dear child in Him, in whose name I pray. Amen.

Nov 11—Mark 5:21-43, Psalm 147:1-11

Cleanse us, O merciful Christ, for we, Your children, groan in body and soul as we await the redemption of our bodies. Amen.

Nov 12—Mark 6:1-6, Psalm 6:6-10

Faithful Jesus, You bore rejection from sinners for our sake; keep us faithful and bold, even when our witness to You is rejected. Amen.

Nov 13—Mark 6:45-52, Psalm 77:11-20

Mighty Lord, You have made us and redeemed us. Sanctify us so that our hearts rest in Your peace. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Nov 14—Mark 7:24-30, Psalm 13

Gracious Lord, I deserve nothing good from You; yet in mercy, You give me far more than crumbs from Your table. Give me faith to humbly receive Your gifts with thanksgiving. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Nov 15—Mark 8:27-38, Psalm 129

Lord Jesus, lead us by Your Word and Spirit that we may confess You as the Christ of God, sent to save us sinners from our sin. Amen.

Nov 16—Mark 9:2-13, Psalm 8

Lord, You have the words of eternal life; help us always hear and believe Your Word so that we may be forgiven and saved by what You have done and promised. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Nov 17—Mark 10:1-12, Psalm 127

Heavenly Bridegroom, bind us to You forever so that we may be and remain wholly Yours. In Your name we pray, Jesus. Amen.

Nov 18—Mark 10:32-45, Psalm 22:12-21

O Jesus, let Thy precious blood Be to my soul a cleansing flood. . . . O God, be merciful to me! (*LSB* 613:3). Amen.

Nov 19—Mark 11:1-11, Psalm 135:1-7, 13-14, 19-21

Gracious Jesus, blessed are You, and blessed is Your name, for in the fullness of time, You came to Jerusalem to suffer and die to redeem us and reconcile us to the Father of all mercy. Open our lips to greet You and sing Your praise. Amen.

Nov 20—Mark 12:13-17, Psalm 50:7-15, 23

Generous Father, You gave me all that I am and all that I have. Help me give always to Your glory and the good of others. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Nov 21—Mark 13:28-36, Psalm 12:6-8

Heavenly Father, You gave Your Son as the sacrifice for our sin and raised Him to life so we might live through Him. Help us believe His enduring Word of promise. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Nov 22—Mark 14:3-9, Psalm 45:1-7

Merciful Jesus, who was anointed to be our Savior, give us Your Holy Spirit so we may ever joyfully confess Your bountiful goodness to us. Amen.

Nov 23—Mark 14:12-25, Psalm 116:12-19

Thank You, Jesus, for freely giving us Your manifold blessings, especially the riches of Your grace poured out upon us in Word and Sacrament. Amen.

Nov 24—Mark 14:53-65, Psalm 118:22-29

Dear once-rejected Jesus, unite our hearts to trust Your Word and fear Your holy name. Amen.

Nov 25—Mark 14:66-72, Psalm 56:8-13

Dear Lord, blot my tears from my eyes and gather them in Your bottle; comfort me with Your cross-won mercy. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Nov 26—Mark 15:1-15, Psalm 22:1-11

He undertakes a great exchange, Puts on our human frame, And in return gives us His realm, His glory, and His name (*LSB* 389:4). Amen.

Nov 27—Mark 15:25-39, Psalm 75

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the death of Christ, my God (*LSB* 425:2). Amen.

Nov 28—Mark 15:42-47, Psalm 16

O Jesus, by Your rest, You hallowed the graves of all who trust in You. Help us eagerly await the Sabbath rest You promise to give us on the Last Day. Amen.

Nov 29—Mark 16:1-8, Psalm 116:1-7

O Lord, by Your mercy, Your astonishing resurrection is good news for us. Overcome our fears and free us to tell others what You have done and promised. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Nov 30—Mark 16:9-20, Psalm 9:1-14

Dear Jesus, by Your Word and Spirit, help us bring people to You so that they too may be saved. 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 DECEMBER ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS,
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15.***



UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES:

REFORMATION SUNDAY	OCT 29
BIBLE STUDY @ BETHANY	NOV 1 1 PM
COMBINED SERVICE AT BETHANY	NOV 5 10 AM
<i>*Combined Council Meeting following service with Pastor Kevin</i>	
FAITH ON TAP @ MARZONIS GREENWOOD	NOV 7 6 PM
BIBLE STUDY @ BETHANY	NOV 8 1 PM
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING	NOV 12 12 PM
CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY	NOV 19
WELCA BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN BEGINS	NOV 19
FAITH ON TAP @ MARZONIS GREENWOOD	NOV 21 6 PM
ADVENT WEEK 1	NOV 26
POINSETTIA ORDER DEADLINE	NOV 26 12 PM
ADVENT MID-WEEK SERVICE @ BETHANY	NOV 29 630PM
DECORATE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS	DEC 2 10 AM
SWEETS AND TREATS/ADVENT WEEK 2	DEC 3 10 AM
FAITH ON TAP @ MARZONIS GREENWOOD	DEC 5 6 PM
ALLEGHENY CHORALE CONCERT	DEC 3 3 PM
ADVENT MID-WEEK SERVICE @ BETHANY	DEC 6 630PM
COUNCIL MEETING/ADVENT WEEK 3	DEC 10 12 PM
ADVENT MID-WEEK SERVICE @ BETHANY	DEC 13 630PM
ADVENT WEEK 4	DEC 17
FAITH ON TAP @ MARZONIS GREENWOOD	DEC 19 6 PM
ADVENT MID-WEEK SERVICE @ BETHANY	DEC 20 630PM
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE @ BETHANY	DEC 24 1 PM
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE @ BETHANY	DEC 24 6 PM
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE @ ST JAMES	DEC 24 8 PM
UN-DECORATE CHURCH AFTER CHRISTMAS	JAN 6 10 AM
WELCA BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN ENDS	JAN 7, 2024

**Note: No morning services at Bethany or St James December 24th or 25th*

WHAT'S HAPPENING!!



NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

DECEMBER 10, 2023

SWEETS



TREATS

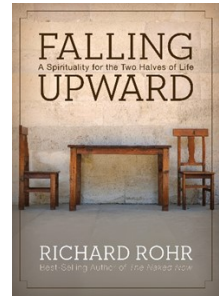
SWEETS AND TREATS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH.

OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS
WILL BE
DECEMBER 3, 2023
Provided By: Jean Bickel

* 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!



Thank You to Robin and John Kessler for hosting our annual Octoberfest. The meal was absolutely delicious and the congregation appreciates your contribution, generosity and your hard work.



Bible Study Update

Faith on Tap- 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the Month at Marzoni's in Greenwood

Since September, we have been doing a series on Richard Rohr's book *Falling Upward*. These have been great conversations as we have spoken about our spiritual upbringing but how that influences our 2nd half of life. This book study will take us to the remainder of the year as we are doing 2 chapters per session. We hope you join us as we fall upward for a time of fellowship and faithful discussions.

Faith on Tap Dates:

- Nov 7th: *Home and Sickness & Amnesia and the Big Picture*
- Nov 21st: *A Second Simplicity & The Bright Sadness*
- Dec 5th: *The Shadowlands & New Problems and New Directions*
- Dec 19th: *Falling Upward & Wrap up*

Wednesday Bible Study- Wednesdays at 1pm in Basement Fellowship Hall

We will be completing our Series with the Gospel of John by Nov 15th. We will then take an Advent Break and will return in the new year as we will be doing a much anticipated series on the Book of Revelation. Stay tuned for details.

Congregational Meeting



The **Annual Congregational** meeting
will be held:

November 12th

after the service. There will be nominations for council members and then the election for council. The budget will be discussed and then anything else that the congregation may bring to our attention.





Free to the public



***Sunday, December 3, 2023 at 3pm
St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church, Altoona***

***Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 7pm
First Presbyterian Church, Tyrone***

Deborah Estright, Director

We ask the congregation to please contribute cookies for the social after the concert. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex.



WELCA NEWS

Precious Life Baby Bottle Campaign



Be a "STAR" this Christmas!

*Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord"
Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future*

Pick up an empty bottle from our Christmas Tree in the foyer. Campaign starts November 19. Take your bottle home and fill it with spare change. Bring your bottle back by January 7, 2024

*Take one for friend or relative. Remember:
"Every Life Matters!"
"Every Coin Counts!"

Fill a Bottle! Save a Life!

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE



**Christ the King Sunday
November 19, 2023**

**Decorate Church for
Christmas
Saturday December 2,
2023 10 AM**



Advent
*A Season of Hope
& Expectation*

**November 26, 2023 to
December 17, 2023**

**Bethany 1 PM
Bethany 6 PM
St. James 8 PM**



***NOTE: Neither church will hold
services morning services December
24th or 25th***



**Un-Decorate Church
after Christmas
January 6, 2024 10 AM**

All Saints Sunday is November 5th for a 10am Service



All Saints Sunday celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. It is on this annual feast day, we gather honoring the Saints who have gone before us and celebrate with the Saints who are still among us. It is also during our All Saints Sunday service where we will light a candle in memory of our loved ones who have passed away this previous year. We are honoring not only members of Bethany but also friends and family of this congregation. All Saints will be significant for this year. **This will be a combined service with a friends at St James where we will gather at 10am.** We will also have in attendance Pr Kevin Schock (Assistant to the Bishop of the Allegheny Synod) whom will share with us the message for the day. We hope you will be able to join us for this special service. **Below is the list of the Saints who have joined the Church Triumphant in this past year, if there is a name you would wish to add, please let the church office by November 1st.** *There will also be the time and space for you to honor a loved one who's name is not spoken.*

Brian Smith		<i>The lost and not forgotten</i>
Lynn Scrudders	Justin Dean	Brian Leamer
Joan Simpson	Peter Hart	Jane Orlando
Sue Pry	Dick Carothers	Chuck Edwards
Rev. Denise Arpino	Bill LaHive	Joe Dorfmiester
Melvin McMasters	Joe Yanke	Robert Civils
Charles Moore	Richard Steuernage	Harry Baborrek



HAPPY
Thanksgiving

*Give
Thanks*





Christmas Poinsettias

Bless our Sanctuary and your home this Christmas with a beautiful red poinsettia! For each \$8.50 you contribute to the St. James Flower Fund, a flower will be placed in the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve and will be available for you to take with you following our Christmas Eve Service. If you would rather donate the flower for a shut-in or friend of St. James, you may indicate that choice on this order form.

Please complete the form and return it to the church. **The deadline for poinsettia orders and payments is Sunday, November 26, 2023.** Thank you for your generosity in this endeavor!

Your Name _____
(as you wish it to appear in the bulletin)

This donation is made:

In Honor of: _____

Or

In Memory of: _____

Amount of Contribution: _____

Number of Christmas Poinsettias: _____

Envelope Number: _____

Please check one:

_____ Yes, I do want to take the poinsettia (s) home with me.

_____ No. I don't want to take the poinsettia (s). I would like them to be given to a shut in or friend of St. James

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