



**St. James Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
October 29, 2023  
Reformation 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 you please sign our guest book.***

**Pulpit Supply: Vice Pastor Drew McCaffery  
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 Built On Rock Lindeman/Gordon  
(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 Spirit.

**Amen.**

*We Gather*

\*GATHERING SONG: Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

LBW 367

NEXT PAGE

## Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and  
 2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, Come, O Lord of  
 3 Grant, we pray, to all your faith - ful All the gifts they  
 4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, Praise and hon - or

cor - ner - stone, Cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,  
 hosts, and stay; Come, with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,  
 ask to gain; What they gain from you for - ev - er  
 to the Son, Praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,

Bind - ing all the Church in one; Ho - ly Zi - on's  
 Hear your peo - ple as they pray; And your full - est  
 With the bless - ed to re - tain; And here - af - ter  
 Ev - er three and ev - er one: One in might and

help for - ev - er And our con - fi - dence a - lone.  
 ben - e - dic - tion Shed with - in these walls to - day.  
 in your glo - ry Ev - er - more with you to reign.  
 one in glo - ry While un - end - ing a - ges run!

*Text: Latin hymn, c. 7th cent.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.*  
 © Tune: Dale Wood, b. 1934

EDEN CHURCH  
 87 87 87

## \*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.

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

# \*CANTICLE OF PRAISE


*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.


*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

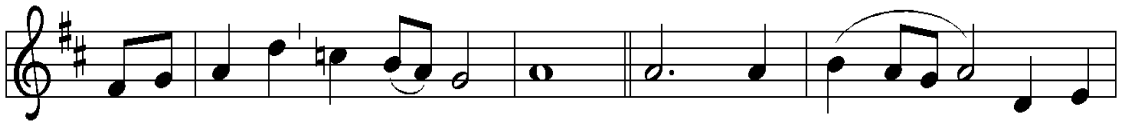


glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Let us pray.

**Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*We Listen to the Word*

**First Reading:**

**Jeremiah 31:31-34**

A reading from Jeremiah.

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

**Psalm 46**

<sup>1</sup>God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

**<sup>2</sup>Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

<sup>3</sup>though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

**<sup>4</sup>There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.**

<sup>5</sup> God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day.

<sup>6</sup> **The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

<sup>7</sup> The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

<sup>8</sup> **Come now, regard the works of the LORD, what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

<sup>9</sup> behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

<sup>10</sup> **“Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

<sup>11</sup> The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

## **Second Reading:**

## **Romans 3:19-28**

A reading from Romans.

<sup>19</sup> Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup> For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

<sup>21</sup> But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, <sup>22</sup> the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, <sup>23</sup> since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup> they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup> it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup> Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup> For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**



**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

**\*GOSPEL:**

**John 8:31-36**

**The Holy Gospel according to John.**

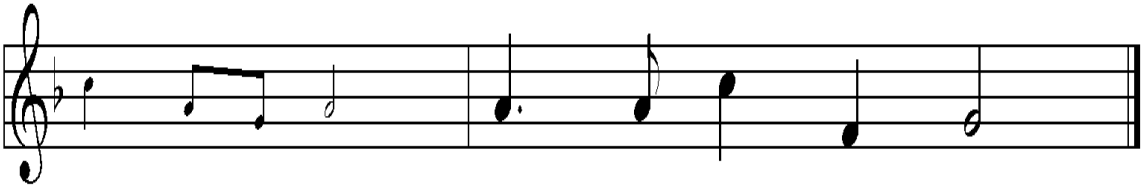


Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

<sup>31</sup> Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” <sup>33</sup> They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup> The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. <sup>36</sup> So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

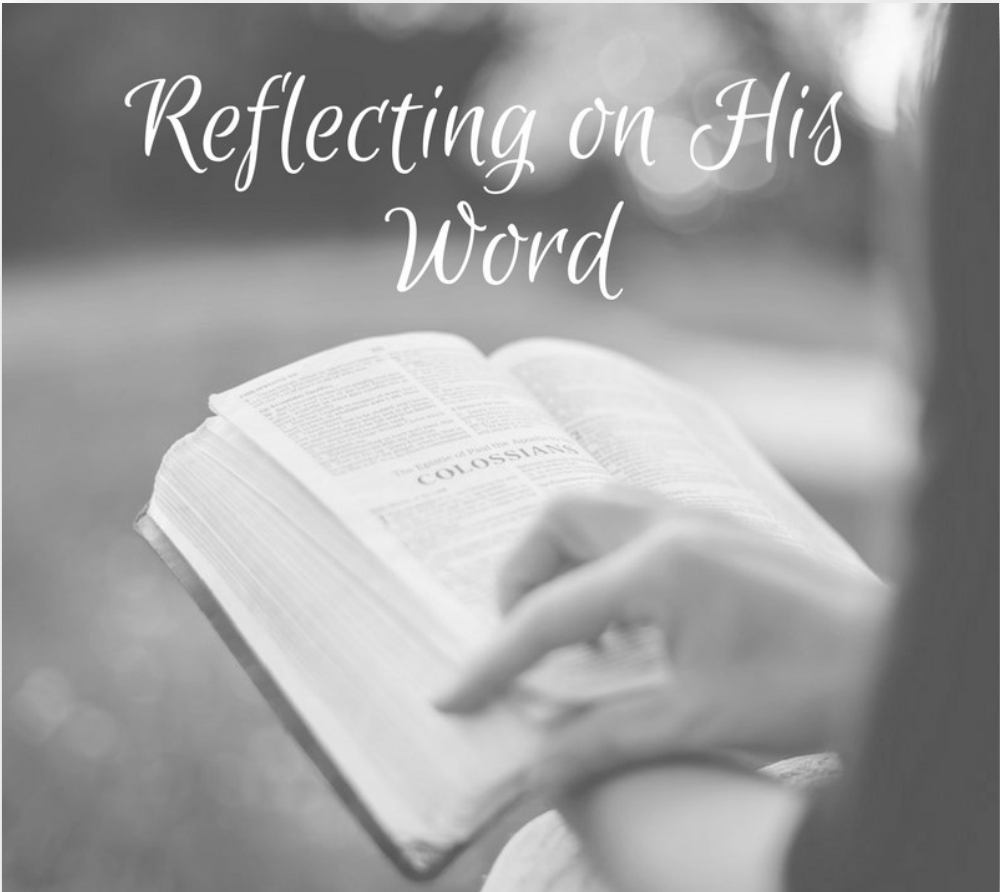
**The Gospel of the Lord.**



C

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon



# *We Respond to the Word*

\*Hymn of the Day:

ELW 812

## Faith of Our Fathers

1 Faith of our fa - thers, liv - ing still in spite of dun - geon,  
2 The mar - tyrs, chained in pris - ons dark, were still in heart and  
3 Faith of our fa - thers! We will love both friend and foe in

fire, and sword. Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy  
con - science free; and blest would be their chil - dren's fate  
all our strife; pro - claim thee too, as love knows how,

*Refrain*  
when - e'er we hear that glo - rious word.  
if they, like them, should die for thee. Faith of our fa - thers,  
by sav - ing word and faith - ful life.

ho - ly faith, we will be true to you till death.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.

Music: ST. CATHERINE, Henri F. Hemy, 1818–1888; James G. Walton, 1821–1905, refrain

## **\*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

Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

God our parent, you call us your children and have made us siblings through your son Jesus. Heal the church's many divisions, bring understanding and peace where there has been contention and strife, and unite us in one body through the love of Christ. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

God our creator, your hands have made the heights of the mountains, the depths of the sea, and the life that animates all creation. Bring relief to areas harmed by wildfires, floods, storms, and human carelessness (*especially*).

Renew the face of the earth. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

God our ruler, the nations rage and the kingdoms shake, but your word stands fast forever. Let your justice and peace roll down like waters wherever there is strife, injustice, war, or religious conflict (*especially*). God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

God our champion, you are our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble. Draw near to all who suffer (*especially*). Be their rest and comfort. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

God our reformer, you make all things new. Free us from complacency, open us to unexpected ways, and kindle zeal in us for the future. We pray for young people affirming their baptism. With them, stir in us a desire for your wisdom.

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God our savior, you made yourself known in the lives of all who have died in the hope of your grace. We give thanks for the witness of reformers like Martin Luther and for all whose example has brought us closer to you. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

\*Sharing of the Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

## *We Offer Our Gifts*

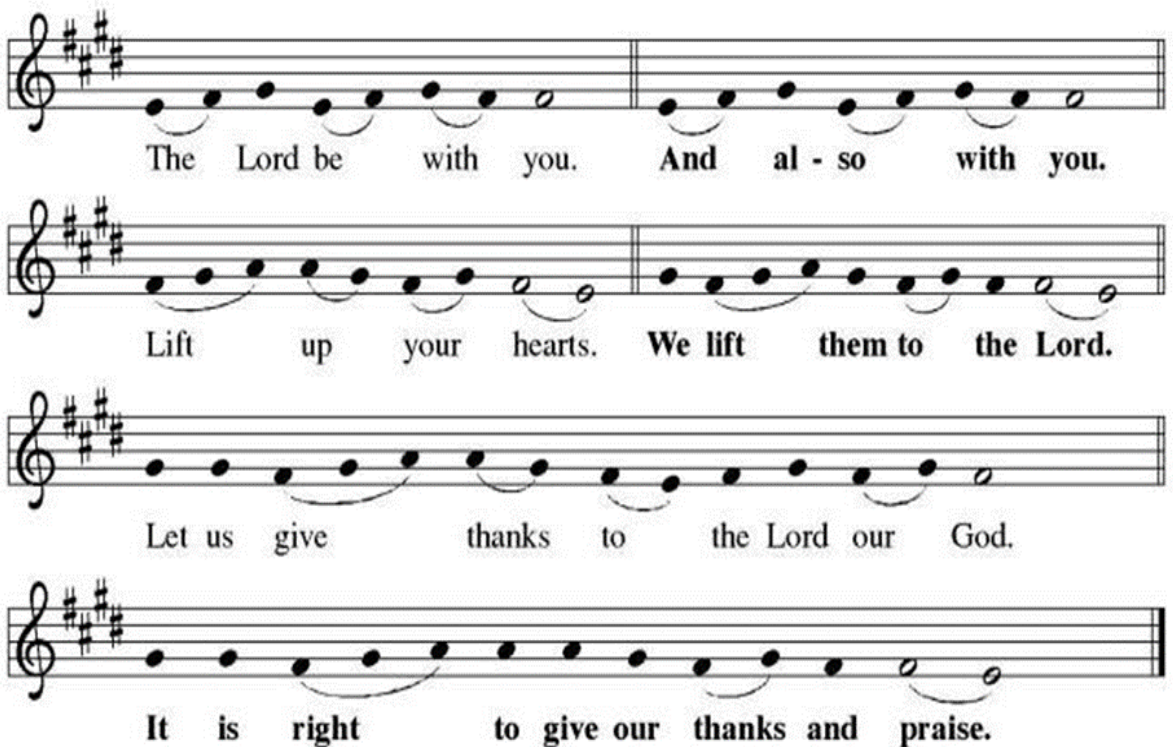
\*Offering Prayer:

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



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

## \*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.

For it is our Lord Jesus, who in the night in which he was betrayed 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".

## \*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



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

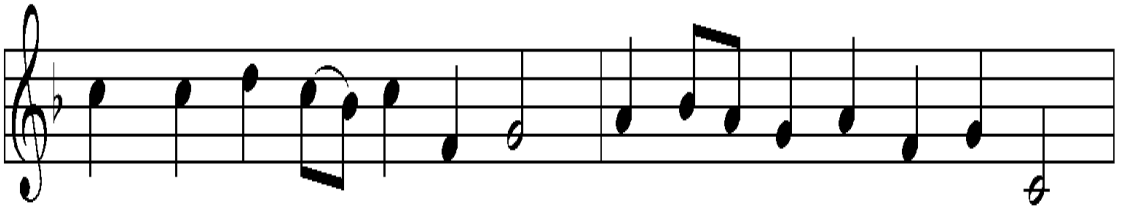
Communion Distribution — please come to the step before altar as led by the Spirit to receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

\*Post-Communion Blessing

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

**C: Amen**

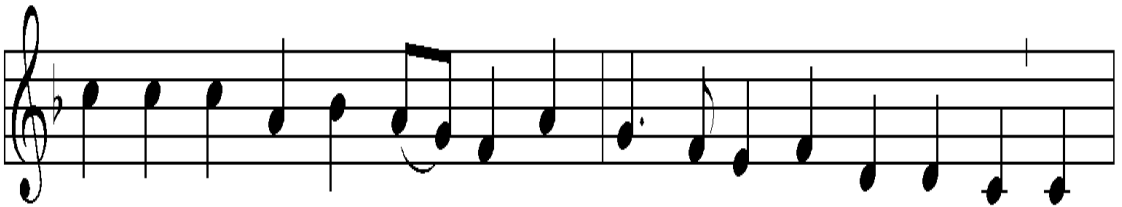
\*Song after Communion:



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



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



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



shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## **\*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:                      A Mighty Fortress Is Our God                      ELW 505  
*NEXT PAGE*

### **\*Dismissal**

**P:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

Recessional:                      Ye Servants of God                      Croft/Wilson



# A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -  
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -  
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - ning to de -  
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who

to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom  
 your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they  
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with

wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe  
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?  
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;  
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,

has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might  
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,  
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;  
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,

he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
 Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther  
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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# 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](mailto:pastordrew0604@gmail.com)

The church office email is [stjamesaltoona@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesaltoona@gmail.com) The church's  
website is [www.stjamesaltoona.org](http://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:**

Janet Kauffman

## **In their own homes:**

Deborah Manbeck





## UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES:

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

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

**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!

**Church  
Council**

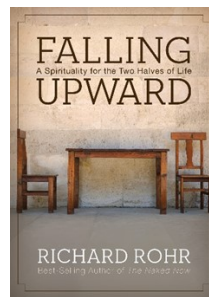


**NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL  
MEETING**

**DECEMBER 10, 2023**



*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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup>. 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.



## All Saints Sunday is November 5<sup>th</sup> 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

# 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.



*Allegheny*  
*Chorale*  *presents*

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 Mid-Week Services at Bethany**

**(Nov 29<sup>th</sup>, Dec 6<sup>th</sup>, Dec 13<sup>th</sup>, Dec 20<sup>th</sup>)**

We will be hosting a midweek worship service held at church at 6:30pm. We will also be joined by our friends from St Luke's in Roaring Spring, so you will get to enjoy the experience of two Pr. McCaffery's! Our theme for this Advent will be *My Soul Magnifies the Lord*. Traditionally on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, we hear the Angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary as she is carrying child. Not just any child but Jesus, the Son of God. Mary while amid her own faithful processing of this news, she responds with what we know as *The Magnificat* ("Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." ~Luke 1:38). It is during this 4-week series, we will faithfully experience and process what Mary's words mean, for us and the world during this Advent Season. See you Wednesday, Nov 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm for our first service where you can join us in person or watch via FB Live. As always, our series will conclude with our traditional Blue Christmas service, for those who this time of the year is especially difficult, on December 20th.



## ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE



**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**



## 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-or 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  
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**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.