



Kirchenblatt January 2024

(Parish Newsletter)



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

Join us for Worship Sundays at 10:45 am

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**In the event of a Pastoral Emergency, please contact Pastor Drew McCaffery
Phone: 814-944-7560 Cell: 814-538-9036**

OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY-THURSDAY 9 AM-1PM

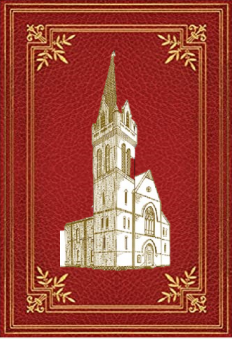
EMAIL: STJAMESALTOONA@GMAIL.COM

WEBSITE: WWW.STJAMESALTOONA.ORG

PHONE: 814-944-6835

MISSION STATEMENT:

**TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST THROUGH WORD AND
SACRAMENT BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.**



Vice Pastor's Report January 2024

Pastor's January Musings

What is word?

We have finally arrived to a new year, it still is hard to settle in on how it is now 2024 and not 2023 (especially as pastor is writing this before Christmas). Yet, with a new year, we always make that attempt to get rid of the things which may have brought us down in the previous year and start anew. This various from stuff, mindset, or even sometimes specific individuals. A practice I have tried over the past couple of years is to consider what my theme/mantra is for the coming year. What are my hopes and dreams for the coming year? This is hopefully to go beyond the typical New Year's Resolution of wanting to lose weight or read more or whatever you have tried to do but will lose interest before the end of the month, if you are lucky. One way I have been trying to create this theme for the coming year is through the practice of Jon Gordon's *One Word that will change your life*. This practice is usually to pray and discern what you hope for the coming year to be and through this activity, a specific word will be the theme throughout the year. From there you will hopefully consider ways in which you live out that theme or word.

While a 2024 word has not been designated, this activity has been helpful to try and keep my mindset for the year. One year, my word was *Change* and I worked to relieve some areas in which I took notice where always controlling my mind especially after Covid and so I focused on trying to let go of things which I could not control and got back into Spiritual Direction (think of this as a practice where your pastor has their own pastor to help them process and discern what is going in their life).

This is also part of the reason I got the Hebrew words “Shalom/Peace” tattooed on my wrist to serve as that reminder to give peace to others while also give peace to myself.

When we gathered on Christmas Eve, we heard “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*” (John 1:1). Why is this important to consider the power of one word. For us, at Christmas, we are reminded how the Word became flesh. Scripture and the belief of God became physically present in Jesus in all the human/fleshiness, just like us. Jesus would be fully divine in sharing the holy encounters of God but also experience being fully human in love, heartbreak, and fellowship which we have with one another. It is also this Word coming among us which has impact which goes beyond a single year but still becomes a focus for us all. What focus can we experience when we encounter the Word of Christ? I feel when we keep the Word in our forefront, we may be very surprised where the Church can go.

For 2024, may you find not only a specific word which speaks to you for the coming year but let us also experience the Word which goes beyond all understanding. Then as we listen together what the Word is calling us, let us join in the whole Church to be the change in the world which God calls us to be.

Peace

Pastor Drew



Contribution & Attendance Summary

October 2022

Contributions \$1,331.79
Average Weekly Attendance:12

October 2023

Contributions \$1,051.00
Average Weekly Attendance:9

INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY

October 1, 2023 - October 31, 2023

INCOME

Bank Interest	\$0.00
Contributions	
General	\$1,000.00
Designated	\$51.00
Special	\$0.00
Other Income	\$4,025.87
	\$5,076.87

EXPENSES

Pastoral Administration	\$721.85
Worship & Music	\$584.54
Office	\$1,344.24
Custodial & Property	\$1,018.96
Uncategorized	\$0.00
	\$3,669.59

January Birthdays

Carolyn Feather	1/5
Deanna Kenney	1/19
David Leonard	1/21
Alysia Tyler	1/18
Carol Weaver	1/14
Elliott Wilt	1/20



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
Soul of Janet Kauffman Those serving in our military

Allegheny Lutheran Home:

Janet Kauffman

Homewood

Sylvia Malsatzki

In their own homes:

Deborah Manbeck



Jan 1—Matthew 1:18-25, Psalm 8

Lord, teach me to trust, like David, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Jan 2—1 Samuel 16:4-10, Psalm 23

Lord Jesus, prepare me to be a good shepherd to the people in my life. Amen.

Jan 3—1 Samuel 16:11-13, Psalm 19

Lord, may we who are baptized in Christ be leavened with the Holy Spirit in our vocations. In His name, we pray. Amen.

Jan 4—1 Samuel 15:2-29, Psalm 40

Thank You, Jesus, for perfectly living, dying, and rising for us. Amen.

Jan 5—1 Samuel 15:14-34, Psalm 5

Lord, keep me covered with Your shield until I am with You in heaven. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jan 6—John 1:35-51, Psalm 148

Lord God, show me Jesus. Help me believe. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jan 7—John 1:23-35, Psalm 111

Jesus, open my heart to see who You truly are. Amen.

Jan 8—1 Samuel 17:32-51, Psalm 26

Jesus, keep me always fighting in Your name. Amen.

Jan 9—1 Samuel 18, Psalm 12

Thank You, God, for teaching true fatherhood. In the name of Your Son, Jesus. Amen.

Jan 10—1 Samuel 19:1-18, Psalm 59

Lord, "You have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress" (Psalm 59:16). In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Jan 11—1 Samuel 21:1-6, Psalm 122

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD!'" (Psalm 122:1). In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jan 12—1 Samuel 21:7-15, Psalm 34

Jesus, thank You that You are so madly in love with me. Amen.

Jan 13—1 Samuel 22:1-2, Psalm 142

Jesus, be with us always, even when we feel lonely. Amen.

Jan 14—1 Samuel 23:1-18, Psalm 54

"O God, hear my prayer; give ear to the words of my mouth" (Psalm 54:2). In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jan 15—1 Samuel 25:10-26, 30-39, Psalm 14
Lord, grant good order in our homes. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jan 16—1 Samuel 26, Psalm 7
O Lord my God, in You I find refuge. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jan 17—1 Samuel 30:1-10, 20-25, Psalm 108
Jesus, use me in Your army to Your glory. Amen.

Jan 18—1 Samuel 30:1-10, 20-25, Psalm 108
Thank You, Lord, for good government. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jan 19—2 Samuel 6:12-15, Psalm 24
Lord Jesus, we worship You, the King of glory. Amen.

Jan 20—2 Samuel 6:20-23, Psalm 103
"Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name!" (Psalm 103:1). In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jan 21—2 Samuel 9, Psalm 133
Thank You, Jesus. You are my best friend forever. Amen.

Jan 22—Genesis 33, Psalm 127
Lord, teach us to better value life. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jan 23—2 Samuel, Psalm 51
"Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love" (Psalm 51:1). In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jan 24—2 Samuel 15:1-29, Psalm 3
Lord Jesus, give me peace, assured of Your everlasting kingdom. Amen.

Jan 25—2 Samuel 15:30-16:14, Psalm 11
Lord God, when I am confronted with my sins and confess them, have mercy. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jan 26—2 Samuel 16:1-4, Psalm 144
Jesus, "let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me" (Luther's Morning Prayer). Amen.

Jan 27—2 Samuel 16:15-23, Psalm 55
Thank You, Lord, for loving me so much that You discipline me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jan 28—2 Samuel 17, Psalm 69:1-30
Dear Jesus, inspire my will to conform with the Father's will. Amen.

Jan 29—2 Samuel 22:25-31, Psalm 18:25-50
Christ is risen! Alleluia! In the name of Jesus, our victorious Savior. Amen.

Jan 30—2 Samuel 23:1-7, Psalm 62

Gracious Lord, let me die with Your words on my lips. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jan 31—1 Kings 2:1-10, Psalm 16

Dear Jesus, empower me to keep Your commission. 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 FEBRUARY ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS,
MONDAY, JANUARY 15.***



UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES:

UN-DECORATE CHURCH AFTER CHRISTMAS JAN 6 10 AM

**Pizza served afterwards*

WELCA BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN ENDS

JAN 7, 2024

SWEETS AND TREATS

FEB 4 10 AM

POTLUCK DINNER

FEB 18 12 PM

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

MAR 10 12 PM

REMINDER: Worship Service will move to the Sunday School Room from January 7th to March 24th!

Janet Kauffman

June 19, 1932~ December 2, 2023



Rev. Ed Harshbarger*

November 15, 1932-December 9, 2023

**Service is planned for Sat, Jan 13, 2024*

St Matthews Lutheran

115 E Penn St, Martinsburg, PA 16662

WHAT'S HAPPENING!!



**NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL
MEETING
March 10, 2024
12 PM**

SWEETS



TREATS

**SWEETS AND TREATS
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF
EACH MONTH.**

**OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS
WILL BE FEBRUARY 4, 2024**

Provided By: Peggy Thatcher

* 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!

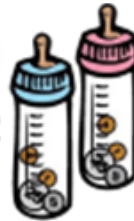


WELCA NEWS

Precious Life Baby Bottle Campaign



Change for 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!

*Precious Life provides resources to a young girl who needs to choose life for her young child.

*The Allegheny Chorale Concert “**Everywhere Christmas Tonight**”, featuring the Altoona Brass Collective Quintet, hosted by St James Lutheran Church on December 3rd was a great success! Over 150 were in attendance and loved our church beautiful church along with the cookies after the performance. Thank you to everyone who made this a successful and enjoyable afternoon.*

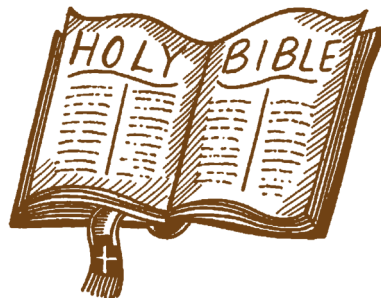




Bible Study Update

As we continue our journey of faith, we continue with diving deeper into our faith through our two bible study opportunities. We are excited as we will begin two brand new series in the coming month.

Wednesday Bible Study (Every Wednesday at 1pm in the Basement Fellowship Hall): On January 10th we will beginning a brand new study and it is one in which many have been asking for quite some time....*REVELATION*. That is right, we will be studying the book of Revelation on Wednesdays as this intriguing book has become the most researched and talked about book in the entire Bible. We hope to see you as we take a weekly dive into these words of hope for all.



2024 Synod Assembly & Synod Nominations

Synod Assembly is around the corner, ok its really 6 months away. We are thankful for Rob Stere, Rhonda Barry, & Pastor Drew whom will be serving as voting delegates this year. Our Assembly will be on Saturday, June 15th at the Blair County Convention Center. There will be a synod wide worship service on Friday, June 14th at Zion Lutheran in Hollidaysburg (more details on the service will be forth coming. We are grateful for the various ways in which our people serve here at Bethany. Various individuals are also needed at the Synod level to help them do the work of the church. Below is a list of assorted ways in which you can help the synod. If you are interested or would like further information, please let Pastor Drew and he will be able to get you further information.

Synod Council (3 Yr. Term by Assembly Vote, Youth-2 Yr Term)

Each person elected to the Synod Council shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod, with the exception of ordained ministers on the roster of this synod who reside outside the territory of this synod. The process for election and the term of office when not otherwise provided shall be specified in the bylaws. A member of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, unless otherwise elected as a voting member of the Synod Council, may serve as an advisory member of the Synod Council with voice but not vote. Meetings are held Bi-Monthly (every other month) or if a special meeting is called by Bishop and/or council members.

Consultation Committee (6 Yr. Term by Assembly Vote)

The Consultation Committee of this synod shall consist of at least six persons and not more than 12 persons, of whom half shall be ordained ministers and half shall be laypersons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive reelection . The functions of the Consultation Committee are set forth in Chapter 20 of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and in Chapter 17 of this Constitution. The size of the Consultation Committee, in accord with this provision, shall be defined in this synod's bylaws. Committee is on call at the request of the Bishop.

Discipline Committee (6 Yr Term by Assembly Vote)

From the ELCA Constitution: There shall be set forth in the bylaws a process of discipline governing officers, ministers of Word and Sacrament, ministers of Word and Service, congregations, and members of congregations. Except as provided in 20.18. or 20.19., such process shall assure due process and due protection for the accused, other parties, and this church. Since synods have responsibility for admittance of persons into the rostered ministries of this church and have oversight of pastoral and congregational relationships, the disciplinary process shall be a responsibility of the synod on behalf of this church. Committee is on call at the request of the Bishop.

Voting Delegate for the 2025 Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix, Arizona (July 28-August 2, 2025)

This is part of the Tri-annual denominational event where various delegates from all 65 Synods, across the ELCA, will attend to do the work of the church which includes worship, learning about the various ministries of the ELCA, and experience the designated host city. The cost for this event is covered by the ELCA. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Pastor Drew as he has attended the 2019 & 2022 Churchwide Assemblies.



Allegheny Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Ash Wednesday-February 14th

As we prepare for the Lenten journey to the cross, we begin with the mark of ashes. These ashes remind us, we return to dust as we came from dust. I think by placing ashes in the sign of the cross, we are reminded outwardly of the sins which Jesus takes to the cross. It is at the cross, our sins (which vary greatly person to person) die in Jesus's final moments. Not only does Ash Wednesday start the season of Lent, but it serves as a reminder to us of our ongoing commitment to the implications of the Resurrection in our own lives. This implication leads to our death in which we will be reborn through the Resurrection of Christ. The cross of ash on individual's heads serves as that visual reminder.

There will be a variety of options for Ash Wednesday: Pastor Drew will be hosting "Ashes to Go" at Church from 7am-9am & then Greenbean Coffeehouse from 2p-4p. Then there will be two worship opportunities: 12 noon at St James & 7p at Bethany. If none of these times do not work for you or if you are unable to come to the worship services, please let Pastor Drew know and we can figure out a separate time. We pray your journey in Lent this year, will be a journey which you experience the cross in a new way.



Lenten Series 2024

***Created for Community
Wednesdays, 6pm Starting Feb 21st***

On Ash Wednesday, we enter into a season together with “the whole church.” It goes to say that we are created for communion with God, one another, and called to live in harmony with creation.” Lent serves as a time for deepening our sense of community. This Lenten Season, we will take a deeper dive in our sense of community within a variety of avenues (creation, saints, Christ, our neighbors, and those on the margins). We will also have this in a Dinner Church Style format, similar to last year’s Lenten Services. We are still formatting the host schedule between Bethany & St James (keep an eye out on Facebook or Sunday Bulletins). We hope you will join us for what will be a wonder experience of food, fellowship, and deeper sense of community.





Sequanota

Lutheran Conference Center & Camp

PO Box 245, Jennerstown, PA 15547

(814) 629-6627

www.sequanota.com

SUSTAIN - AN ADULT RETREAT

DATE: FEBRUARY 9-11, 2024

BOWERSOX CENTER

COST: \$170 (DOUBLE OCCUPANCY)/ \$210
(SINGLE OCCUPANCY): INCLUDES 2 NIGHTS
LODGING & 4 MEALS

This weekend retreat has been created to provide adults a weekend to engage their faith for the journey of life. The church we grew up in is shrinking. This raises our anxiety and causes us to question *"what is happening and where is God?"* We all need to be sustained in our love and trust in God. This weekend is for all adults. Please consider joining us for the weekend of study, rest and friendship. The book study will include "[When the Church Stops Working](#)" by Andrew Root and Blair Bertrand.

This weekend is for all adults. Free childcare can be provided on site during sessions to make it easier to engage in the weekend's sessions. (Advance notice is required)

All are welcome! Register online or call the office.



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
Robin Kessler—Vice President
Evelyn Holsinger—Secretary
Ralph Grove—Treasurer
Betty Boslet
Sharon Lightner
Shirley Manbeck
Mike Savino
Diane Schultz
Bill Wilt
Donna 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—Victor 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

- *Evelyn Holsinger
- *Sharon Lightner
- *Donna Wilt
- *Mike Savino

Worship & Music

- ***Mark Hoover**
- *Sharon Lightner
- Pat McConnell
- *Diane Shultz

By-Laws

- ***Mark Hoover**
- *Betty Boslet
- *Mike Savino

Christian Education/
Social Ministry

- ***Evelyn Holsinger**
- *Robin Kessler
- *Sharon Lightner
- *Shirley Manbeck
- *Diane Schultz
- *Donna Wilt

Finance

- ***Mark Hoover**
- *Betty Boslet
- Ralph Grove
- *Robin Kessler
- *Bill Wilt
- *Donna Wilt

Property

- ***Evelyn Holsinger**
- Bill Dambeck
- Bob Holsinger
- *Robin Kessler
- *Shirley Manbeck
- *Mike Savino
- *Bill Wilt

Stewardship/Evangelism

- ***Donna Wilt**
- *Betty Boslet
- *Sharon Lightner

* Denotes Council Member
Thrivent Rep.—
Betty Boslet