



**St. James Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
January 28, 2024  
4th Sunday  
After Epiphany**

**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: Dialogue Sur Les Grands Jeux Nicholas DeGrigney

*(We take this time to silently prepare our hearts and minds for worship)*

PLEASE STAND

**CONFESSIOIN 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: Hail to the Lord's Anointed

ELW 311

NEXT PAGE

# Hail to the Lord's Anointed



1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!  
 2 You come with res - cue speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,  
 3 You shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;  
 4 Kings shall fall down be - fore you, and gold and in - cense bring;



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, your reign on earth be - gun!  
 to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;  
 love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in your path to birth.  
 all na - tions shall a - dore you, your praise all peo - ple sing.



You come to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive  
 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to  
 Be - fore you on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald,  
 To you shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as -



free, to take a - way trans - gres - sion and  
 light, whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, are  
 go; and righ - teous - ness in foun - tains from  
 cend; your king - dom still in - creas - ing, a



rule in eq - ui - ty.  
 pre - cious in your sight.  
 hill to val - ley flow.  
 king - dom with out end.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.  
 Music: FREUT EÜCH, IHR LIEBEN, Leonhart Schröter, 1540–1602

**\*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.



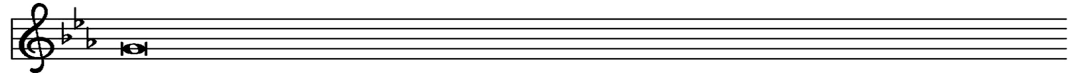
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

# Glory to God

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Let us pray.

**Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

### *We Listen to the Word*

**First Reading:**

**Deuteronomy 18:15-20**

A reading from Deuteronomy.

[Moses said:] <sup>15</sup>The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. <sup>16</sup>This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” <sup>17</sup>Then the LORD replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. <sup>19</sup>Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. <sup>20</sup>But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

**Psalm 111**

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

<sup>2</sup>**Great are your works, O LORD, pondered by all who delight in them.**

<sup>3</sup>Majesty and splendor mark your deeds, and your righteousness endures forever.

<sup>4</sup>**You cause your wonders to be remembered; you are gracious and full of compassion.**

<sup>5</sup>You give food to those who fear you, remembering forever your covenant.

**<sup>6</sup>You have shown your people the power of your works in giving them the lands of the nations.**

<sup>7</sup>The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice; all of your precepts are sure.

**<sup>8</sup>They stand fast forever and ever, because they are done in truth and equity.**

<sup>9</sup>You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever; holy and awesome is your name.

**<sup>10</sup>The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise endures forever.**

**Second Reading:**

**1 Corinthians 8:1-13**

A reading from Corinthians.

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup>Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; <sup>3</sup>but anyone who loves God is known by him.

<sup>4</sup>Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” <sup>5</sup>Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—<sup>6</sup>yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

<sup>7</sup>It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. <sup>8</sup>“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. <sup>9</sup>But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? <sup>11</sup>So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed.

<sup>12</sup>But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup>Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



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

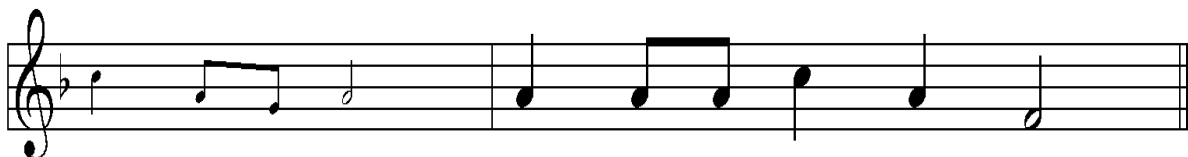


You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

**\*GOSPEL:**

**Mark 1:21-28**

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.



<sup>21</sup>[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught.<sup>22</sup> They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup> Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup> and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” <sup>25</sup> But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” <sup>26</sup> And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup> They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” <sup>28</sup> At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

### The Gospel of the Lord.



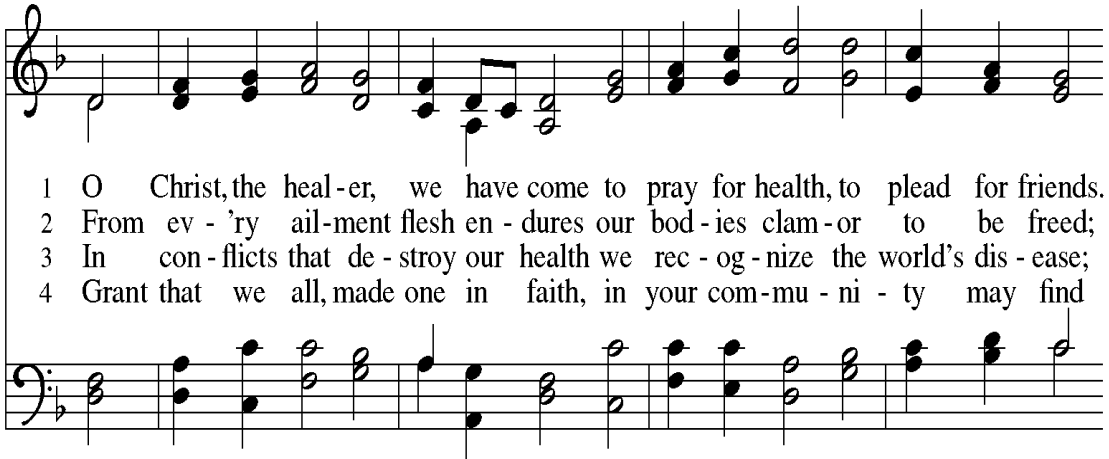
Sermon

## *We Respond to the Word*

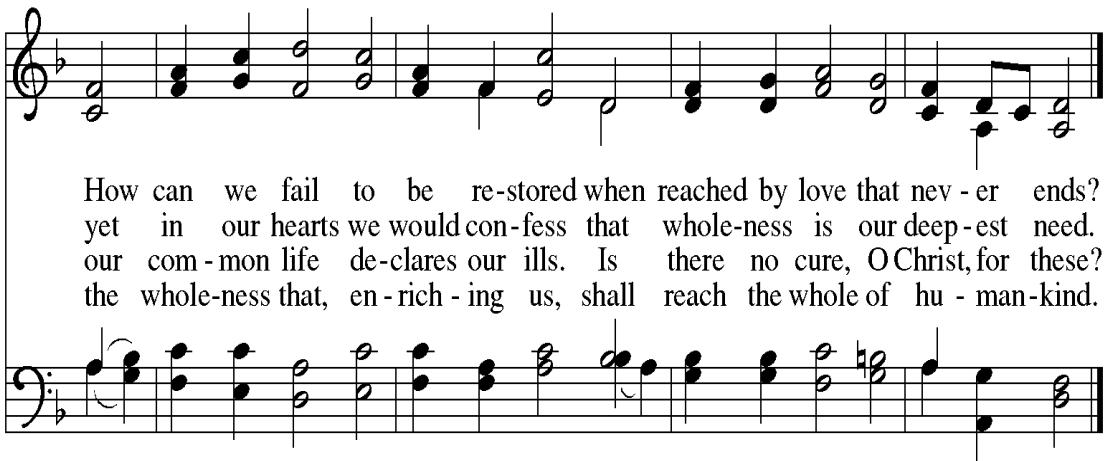
\*Hymn of the Day:

ELW 610

### O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come



1 O Christ, the heal-er, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends.  
2 From ev - 'ry ail-ment flesh en - dures our bod - ies clam - or to be freed;  
3 In con - flicts that de - stroy our health we rec - og - nize the world's dis - ease;  
4 Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your com - mu - ni - ty may find



How can we fail to be re-stored when reached by love that nev - er ends?  
yet in our hearts we would con - fess that whole-ness is our deep - est need.  
our com - mon life de - clares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?  
the whole-ness that, en - rich - ing us, shall reach the whole of hu - man-kind.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: DISTRESS, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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## **\*Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. 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; ourselves, 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.**

## Prayers of Intercession

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Loving God, we pray that your example of teaching with confidence and authority builds up your church in love. May all church leaders and teachers honor your instruction and model your inclusive ways. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Renewing God, we pray for all of creation, that waterways flow clean and clear, natural spaces are protected, and our planet is healed. Let us commit to thoughtful care of the earth. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Justice-seeking God, we pray for those in government and community leadership, that they lead with honor and mindfulness. May they remember their covenants and be upright in their ways. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Compassionate God, we pray for all in need, especially those who have known rejection, any who struggle with long-term illness or chronic pain, those without access to safe housing or health care, and any who suffer (*especially*). God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Still-speaking God, we pray for our congregation, for its artists and musicians, for its educators and caregivers, that all gifts are used to care for those in need and to live out your example of accompaniment, gospel witness, and love. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Eternal God, we remember all who have been teachers, mentors, and companions in the church and in our lives (*especially Thomas Aquinas whom we commemorate today*). We trust that all who have died rest in your loving care. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

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

\*The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

*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: God, Whose Almighty Word

ELW 673

*NEXT PAGE*

\*Dismissal

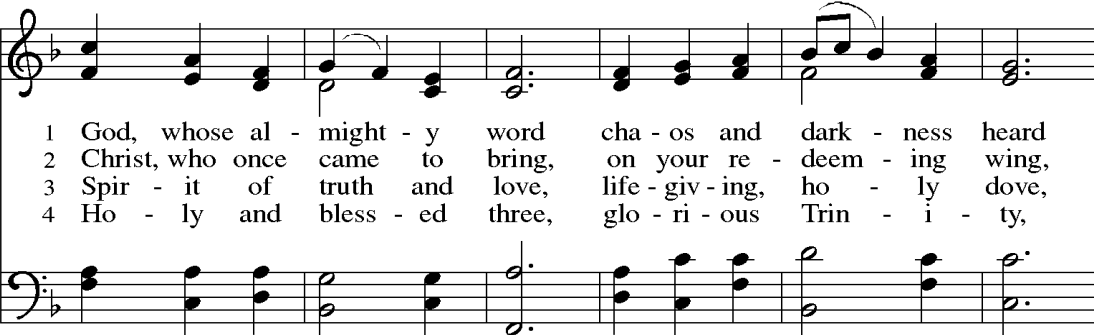
**P:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

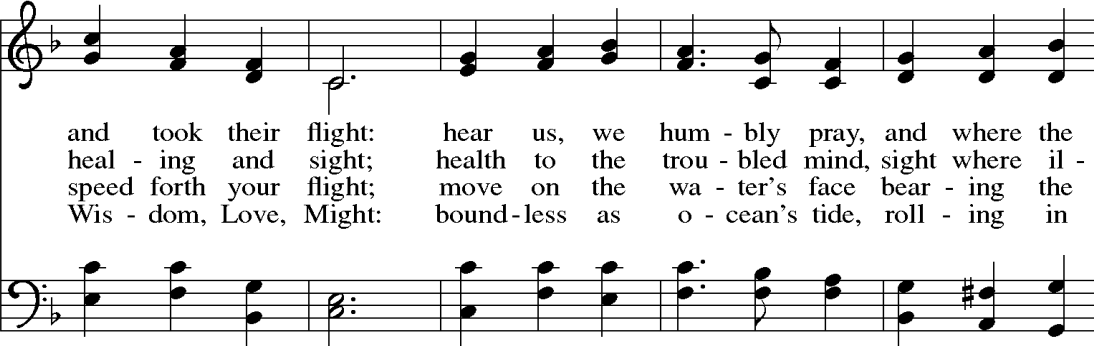
Recessional

Praise, My Soul, The King Of Heaven arr. Lani Smith

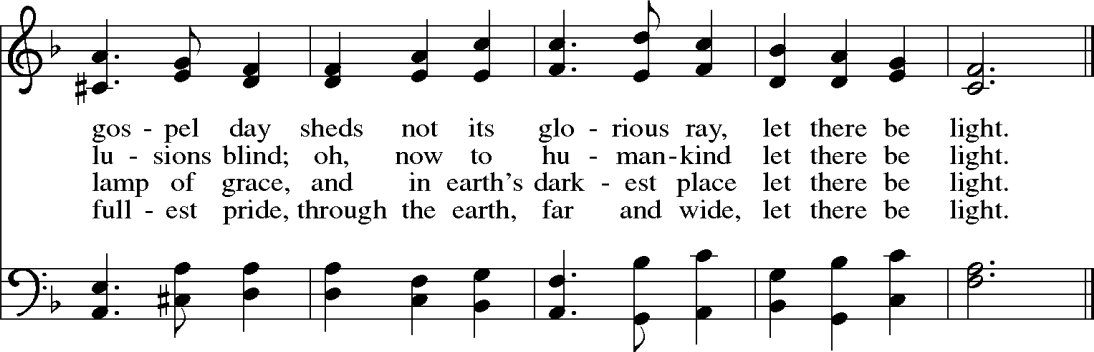
# God, Whose Almighty Word



1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard  
2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,  
3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,  
4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,



and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the  
heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -  
speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the  
Wis - dom, Love, Might: bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in



gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light.  
lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man - kind let there be light.  
lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place let there be light.  
full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

Text: John Marriott, 1780–1825, alt.

Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

# 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	
The Family of Janet Kauffman			

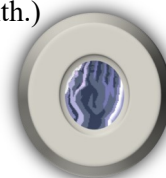
(Names for inclusion on our parish prayer list can be submitted to the church office. The name will remain on the list for one month. At the end of that period please advise the church office, if you would like the name to be continue for another month.)  
Those serving in our military.

## **Homewood:**

Sylvia Malsatzki

## **In their own homes:**

Deborah Manbeck





**UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES:**

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>SWEETS AND TREATS</b>                        | <b>FEB 4 10 AM</b>  |
| <b>ST JAMES WELCA BABY BOTTLE</b>               |                     |
| <b>CAMPAIGN ENDS</b>                            | <b>FEB 4</b>        |
| <b>BIBLE STUDY @ BETHANY</b>                    | <b>FEB 7 1 PM</b>   |
| <b>COMBINED SERVICE WITH BETHANY @ ST JAMES</b> |                     |
|   | <b>FEB 18 10 AM</b> |
| <b>ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE</b>                    | <b>FEB 14 12 PM</b> |
| <b>BIBLE STUDY @ BETHANY</b>                    | <b>FEB 14 1 PM</b>  |
| <b>BIBLE STUDY @ BETHANY</b>                    | <b>FEB 21 1 PM</b>  |
| <b>POTLUCK DINNER</b>                           | <b>FEB 25 12 PM</b> |
| <b>BIBLE STUDY @ BETHANY</b>                    | <b>FEB 28 1 PM</b>  |
| <b>SWEETS AND TREATS</b>                        | <b>MAR 3 10 AM</b>  |
| <b>BIBLE STUDY @ BETHANY</b>                    | <b>MAR 6 1 PM</b>   |
| <b>CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING</b>                   | <b>MAR 10 12 PM</b> |
| <b>ALLEGHENY CHORALE SPRING CONCERT</b>         | <b>APR 28 3 PM</b>  |

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





**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!



**POTLUCK DINNER**

**The next Potluck Dinner is  
February 25, 2024  
12PM**

**Church  
Council**



**NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL  
MEETING**

**MARCH 10, 2024  
12 PM**

# ST JAMES WELCA NEWS

## Precious Life Baby Bottle Campaign Extended



**Be a "STAR"**

*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*

**Campaign Extended! Please bring your bottle  
back by February 4, 2024**

**A big thank you to all who contributed but many have bottles that still need turned in!**

*Now is the time to fill another. Bottles available in the Sunday school room.*

\*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.



## **Joint Worship Service on Feb 18th**

As we begin our season of Lent, we wish to focus on the aspect of community. As St James & Bethany are exploring ways to further this shared ministry together, we felt it would be no better way than join each other on the 1st Sunday of Lent.

**This will be a combined service with a friends at Bethany 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. You may remember Pastor Kevin when we had a combined service on All Saints Sunday back in November. We hope you will be able to join us for this special service.



## **Feeding Partnership with St Luke's Episcopal**

Our neighbor, St Luke's Episcopal Church, have been in the process with the sale of their building. The plan is that St. Luke's will be able to continue to worship in their space as part of this sale but some of their other ministries are having to make some changes. In conversation between St James' council and representatives from St Luke's we made sure that St Luke's Monthly Feeding Ministry would continue in our neighborhood. Starting this month, we unfortunately were impacted by the snow in January, St Luke's will be hosting a free community luncheon. If you are interested in helping, please let Pastor Drew know and he will get you in touch with St Luke's point person.

## **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.





## 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 1:00 p.m. in the Basement Fellowship Hall):** On January 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

***Faith on Tap (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at Marzoni's in Greenwood, 6:00 p.m.):*** On February 20<sup>th</sup> we will begin a new series which will be fitting going into Lent. We will do a series entitled, *"Broken Signpost"* which will be influenced by NT Wright's 2020 book *Broken Signposts: How Christianity Makes Sense of the World*. N. T. Wright argues that every world view must explain seven "signposts", indicators inherent to humanity: justice, spirituality, relationships, beauty, freedom, truth, and power. If we do not live up to these ideals our societies and individual lives become unbalanced, creating anger and frustration - negative emotions that divide us from ourselves and from God, he contends. Join us on Feb 20<sup>th</sup> as we talk about the broken signpost we miss.

# 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.





Grow  
in Christ





*St. James Evangelical  
Lutheran Church*

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**[www.stjamesaltoona.org](http://www.stjamesaltoona.org)**



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