



Kirchenblatt February 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

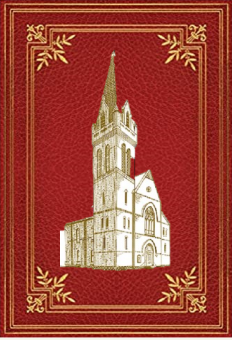
EMAIL: STJAMESALTOONA@GMAIL.COM

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 February 2024

Pastor's February Musings

Foolish Love

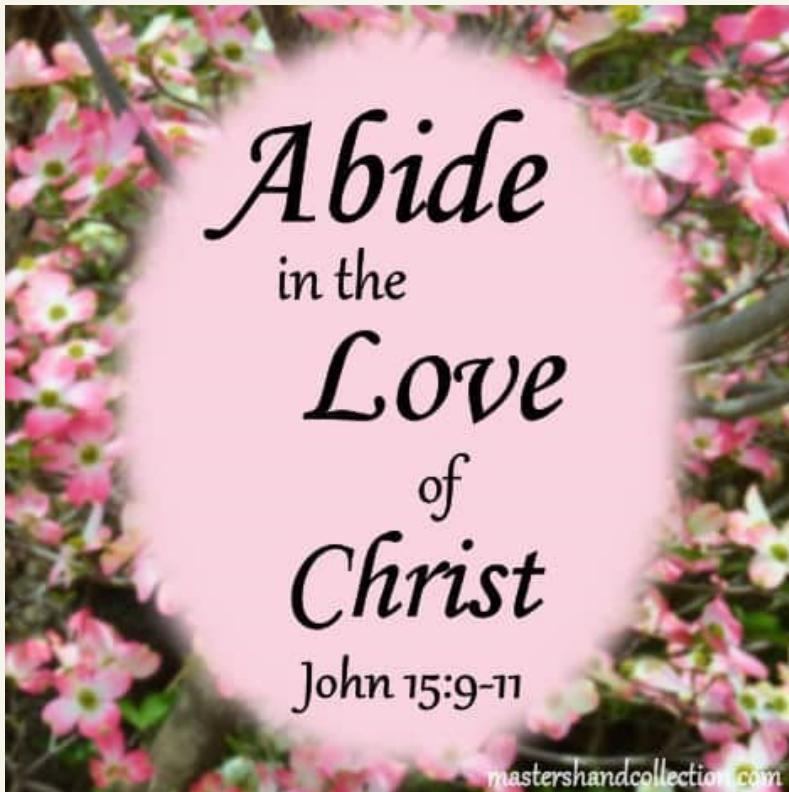
I was having a conversation with a recent visit and the individual was asking me when the next big Christian Holiday was. I assumed they were speaking to Easter as not everyone else is as much of a liturgical nut as me. When I expressed how Easter falls on March 31st, the person was then trying to count in their head when Ash Wednesday falls and I replied with February 14th. These dates are not quite the earliest Easter can fall, in fact the earliest is March 22nd but that hasn't happened since 1818 and won't again until 2285. As you can guess, Ash Wednesday and Lent tend to sneak up on us as we are putting away the Christmas decorations.

As our conversation continued, because they realized Valentines Day coincides with Ash Wednesday, there was wondering how these two holidays will play together. Jokingly, Pastor would make the sign of a heart on people's foreheads with ashes but I am not much of an artist and it will get very messy to make that many hearts. All kidding aside, I think for our Lenten journey to begin on February 14th provides a unique prospect of what this season means for us. For as we join Jesus on the 40-day journey to the cross, we remind ourselves the love which is expressed by Christ. As Jesus said, "no greater love than to lay one's life for a friend." (Slightly paraphrased John 15:13) It is in this Lenten journey we get to experience even more to why Jesus took our sins, imperfections, and ill-fortunes to bear to the world, it was out of love.

It is this agape, unconditional love which reminds us how God believes in the good humanity has. Yes, we are imperfect and will continue to fall short in the precious gift of grace. Yet, God's gift does not tarnish or go stale but carries a greater shine than any diamond. I could go on and on the ways in which love is brought to us by Jesus. Instead, friends, I invite you to join me in this Lenten journey where we will experience and understand the foolish love which Christ has for us all. It is a messy kind of love but it none the less a gift freely gives to us all.

Peace


Pastor Drew



Contribution & Attendance Summary	
November 2022	
Contributions \$801.50	
Average Weekly Attendance:12	
November 2023	
Contributions \$726.50	
Average Weekly Attendance:9	

February Birthdays

Jean Bickel	2/12
Robert Hench	2/12
Marissa Kenney	2/7



INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY	
November 1, 2023 - November 30, 2023	
INCOME	
Bank Interest	\$0.00
Contributions	
General	\$664.00
Designated	\$62.50
Special	\$0.00
Other Income	\$4,000.00
	\$4,726.50
EXPENSES	
Pastoral Administration	\$795.35
Worship & Music	\$587.54
Office	\$970.12
Custodial & Property	\$1,080.97
Uncategorized	\$0.00
	\$3,433.98

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,
 Family of Janet Kauffman,
 Those serving in our military

Homewood
 Sylvia Malsatzki

In their own homes:
 Deborah Manbeck



Feb 1—1 John 4:7-21, Psalm 31

Triune God, You are love. Work in our hearts this month as we read about Your love for us and for all Your creation. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Feb 2—Genesis 1, Psalm 8

Son of God, You took part in creation with the Father and Spirit. Thank You for coming into Your creation to make all things good. In Your name. Amen.

Feb 3—Genesis 2:18-25, Psalm 72:1-7

Dear heavenly Father, thank You for lovingly crafting a world to enjoy and thank You for creating us. Forgive us when we don't show love to You or to one another. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Feb 4—Genesis 3, Psalm 80

Father, thank You for promising Your Son to restore all things out of love for us. In His name. Amen.

Feb 5—Genesis 12:1-9, Psalm 22:25-28

Father, thank You for setting into motion a promise that would be a blessing for all people. Help me, Your child, bless others through Your Son. In His name I pray. Amen.

Feb 6—Genesis 28:10-22, Psalm 103:6-22

Jesus, You are the Way, connecting heaven and earth. Amen.

Feb 7—Exodus 2:23—3:22, Psalm 136

Dear God, thank You for rescuing me from sin, death, and the devil. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Feb 8—Exodus 25:10-22, Psalm 150

Savior, You promised to always be with us. Through Your Spirit, live in us today and every day. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Feb 9—2 Samuel 7:1-17, Psalm 138

Jesus, Son of God, You are our King! Reign in our hearts now and forever. Amen.

Feb 10—1 Kings 6:11-36, Psalm 26

Triune God, thank You for the opportunity to visit Your house. Turn our hearts in joyful expectation of the day that we are always in Your presence. Amen.

Feb 11—Hosea 4:1-3, Psalm 36

Jesus, thank You for Your faithfulness and Your steadfast love, which endures forever. Amen.

Feb 12—Isaiah 58, Psalm 147

God, renew our hearts so that our worship is an outpouring of love for You and for others. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Feb 13—2 Kings 24, Psalm 137

Dear heavenly Father, forgive us when we take You for granted. Thank You for Your steadfast love. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Feb 14—Lamentations 3:19-40, Psalm 51:1-12

Lord Jesus, we have turned our backs on Your love. Forgive us and give us new hearts filled with love for You. Amen.

Feb 15—Daniel 6, Psalm 140

Lord God, use us so that others see You in our daily lives; strengthen us to trust and follow You. To Your glory and in the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Feb 16—Esther 4, Psalm 142

Lord Jesus, deliver us from sin and equip us for our callings. Amen.

Feb 17—Nehemiah 1:1-2:8, Psalm 51:13-19

Dear Lord, reconcile us to You. Keep us in Your steadfast love. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Feb 18—Luke 2:1-21, Psalm 24

Dear Jesus, Your love conquered sin and death so that we can live with You one day in perfect love. Guide us to love others, witnessing to You. Amen.

Feb 19—Matthew 2:1-12, Psalm 72:8-17

Lord Jesus, King of kings, remind us to be grateful that You came for each one of us. May our joy overflow so that we tell all nations of Your love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Feb 20—Matthew 3, Psalm 3

Jesus, thank You for taking my place so that I will have a place with You forever. Amen.

Feb 21—Luke 7:1-17, Psalm 103:1-5

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Feb 22—Luke 18:15-17, Psalm 34:11-21

Father God, thank You for making us Your children through the work of Your Son, Jesus. In His name we pray. Amen.

Feb 23—John 13:1-20, Psalm 89:20-24

Jesus, help us to love as You loved. Amen.

Feb 24—Luke 23:26-49, Psalm 22:1-19

Dear Jesus, words cannot express Your incredible love. Amen.

Feb 25—Luke 24:1-12, Psalm 29

Dear Jesus, thank You for the promise of new life in You! Help us share this promise with others. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Feb 26—Acts 1:6-11, Psalm 9:1-11

King Jesus, as You prepare a place for us, send Your Spirit to prepare the hearts of all for the day You will return. Amen.

Feb 27—Romans 8:18-39, Psalm 130

Holy Spirit, as we wait for Jesus' return, stir up our hearts to lead lives of love for others so that they may know God's love. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Feb 28—1 Corinthians 13:6-13, Psalm 133

Love Incarnate, return to us, that we may live in love eternally. In Jesus' holy name. Amen.

Feb 29—Revelation 21:1-4, Psalm 45

Our Father, Your kingdom come. Your will be done. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

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 MARCH ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS, THURSDAY FEBRUARY, 15.



UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES:

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

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



WHAT'S HAPPENING!!



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



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



**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!

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.

ST JAMES WELCA NEWS

- Allegheny Synod WELCA has disbanded due to lack of synod wide congregation participation.
- St James has chosen to continue the good works established by WELCA and has chosen the new name: St James WELCA
- Notice: Precious Life Baby Bottle Campaign has been extended to February 4th. A big thank you to all who contributed but many have bottles that still need turned in. Now is the time to fill another bottle. Bottles available in the Sunday school room.
- St. James WELCA meeting held January 14th and voted on officers for 2024.
 - Margaret (Peggy) Thatcher ...President
 - Donna Wilt... Secretary
 - Shirley Manbeck... Treasurer
 - Notes from our meeting: St. James WELCA Christmas party was very well attended and enjoyed by all. Upcoming ideas.... A summer trip to Elk Country.

Please consider joining our group!



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 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.

Faith on Tap (1st & 3rd Tuesday at Marzoni's in Greenwood, 6:00 p.m.): On February 20th 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 20th as we talk about the broken signpost we miss.

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.





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.

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