

**St. James Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
February 4, 2024  
5th Sunday  
After Epiphany  
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  
Guest Preacher: Peggy Thatcher  
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: Hymns Of Healing

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

PLEASE STAND

**CONFESSON 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:

Rise Up, O Saints of God!

ELW 669

NEXT PAGE

# Rise Up, O Saints of God!

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Rise Up, O Saints of God!'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system of music is followed by five lines of lyrics. The second system of music is followed by a paragraph of lyrics. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and moving lines.

1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;  
2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;  
3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;  
4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;  
5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;

Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.  
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.  
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.  
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.  
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936  
Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893  
Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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## \*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.

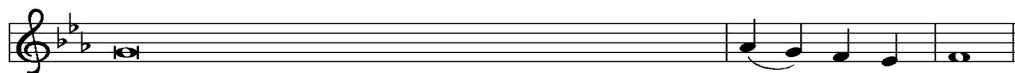
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



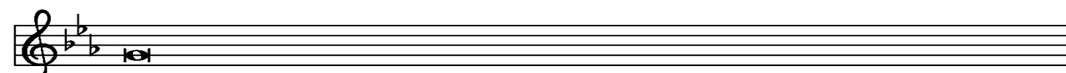
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



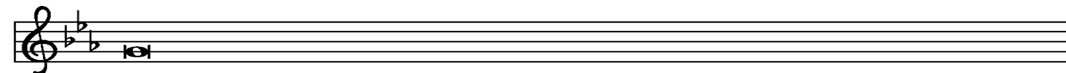
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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,

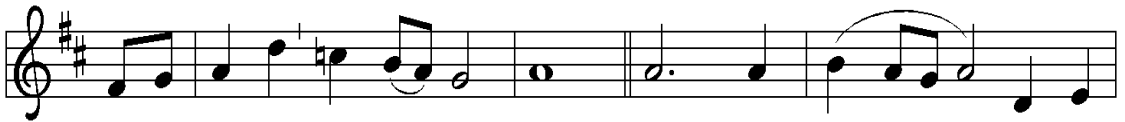


glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*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.

**Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

### *We Listen to the Word*

**First Reading:**

**Isaiah 40:21-31**

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>21</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? <sup>22</sup>It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; <sup>23</sup>who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. <sup>24</sup>Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. <sup>25</sup>To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. <sup>26</sup>Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. <sup>27</sup>Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel,

“My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God”? <sup>28</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. <sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. <sup>30</sup>Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; <sup>31</sup>but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

## Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God! How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem, and gathers the exiles of Israel.**

<sup>3</sup>The LORD heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

<sup>4</sup>**The LORD counts the number of the stars and calls them all by their names.**

<sup>5</sup>Great is our LORD and mighty in power; there is no limit to God's wisdom.

<sup>6</sup>**The LORD lifts up the lowly, but casts the wicked to the ground.**

<sup>7</sup>Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make music upon the harp to our God,

<sup>8</sup>**who covers the heavens with clouds and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow upon the mountains.**

<sup>9</sup>God provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they cry.

<sup>10</sup>**God is not impressed by the might of a horse, and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,**

<sup>11</sup>but finds pleasure in those who fear the LORD, in those who await God's steadfast love. <sup>20c</sup> Hallelujah!

## Second Reading:

## 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

A reading from Corinthians.

<sup>16</sup>If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel!

<sup>17</sup>For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. <sup>18</sup>What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

<sup>19</sup>For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. <sup>20</sup>To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law.





<sup>29</sup>As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup>He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

<sup>32</sup>That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup>And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

<sup>35</sup>In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup>And Simon and his companions hunted for him. <sup>37</sup>When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." <sup>38</sup>He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." <sup>39</sup>And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

## The Gospel of the Lord.



# *We Respond to the Word*

\*Hymn of the Day:

ELW 614

## There Is a Balm in Gilead

*Refrain*

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour-aged and think my work's in vain,  
2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,  
3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour-aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

*Refrain*

but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.  
you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all."  
and if you lack for knowl-edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

## **\*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

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.*

Everlasting God, you bring your healing power to the church. Give your church a spirit of unity and prayer, that we discern your way for us in the world. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

Creator of the ends of the earth, you make the grass grow and send rain for the soil. Bring your creation into harmony and balance. Give animals their food and provide healthy shelter for your people. Inspire us to honor the miraculous beauty of all you have made. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

God without equal, your steadfast love endures forever. Bring the leaders, elected officials, and peacekeepers of our towns and countries into understanding and unity. Guide them to serve with compassion and understanding. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

God who strengthens, you lift up with your hand any who are suffering. Heal those who are brokenhearted and strengthen the weak and all in need (*especially*). God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

God who gives power to the faint, challenge us to share the faith stories of what God has done in our lives. Open us to receive the unique ways God is at work in your people, especially those whose perspectives challenge our own. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God who calls each star by name, we remember all who have died. Shelter all who mourn with your mercy and care, and give us hope in your promised salvation. 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.**

\*Sharing of the Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

## *We Offer Our Gifts*

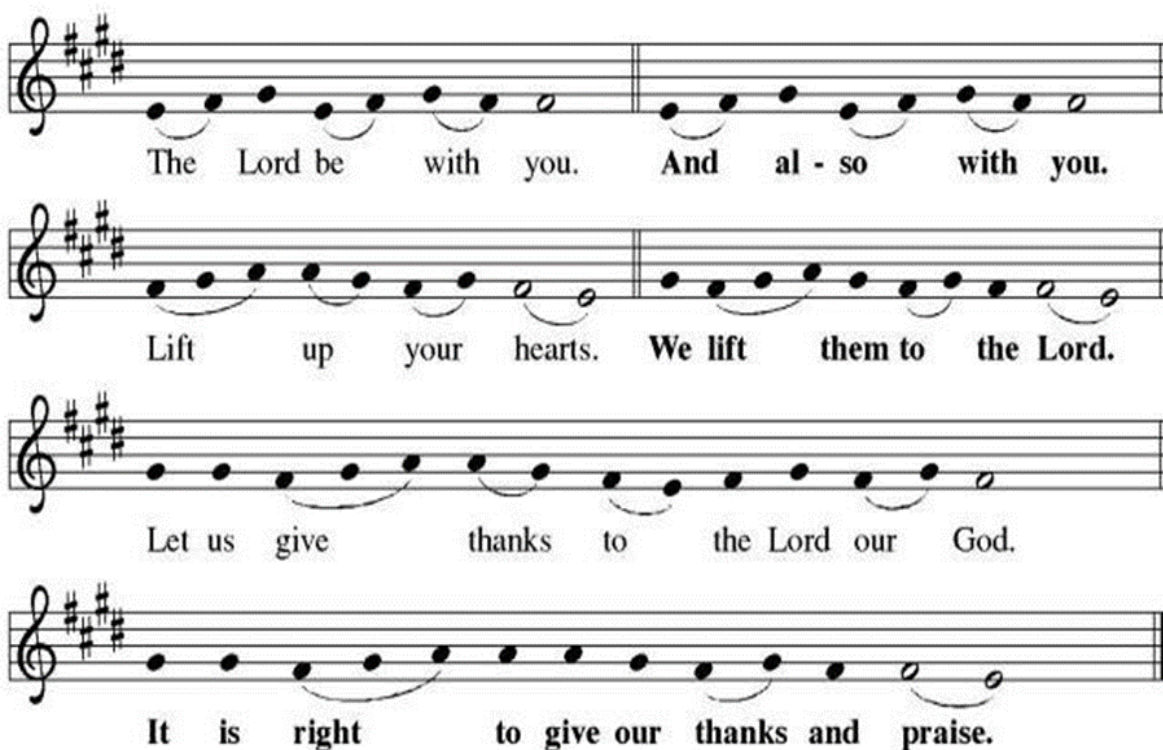
\*Offering Prayer:

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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: '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.', and 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.' The music consists of quarter and eighth notes with slurs and ties.

**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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. 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



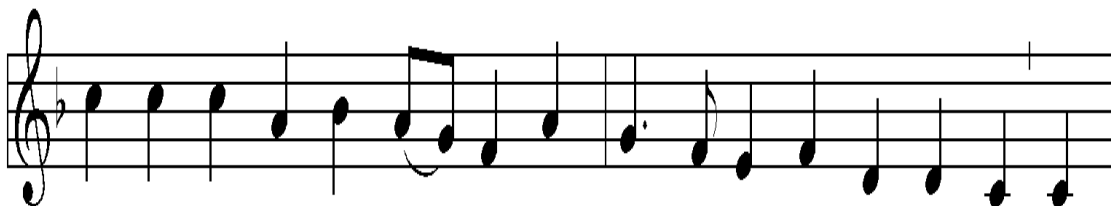
\*Song after Communion:



☞ 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.

Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.

**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:** Spread, Oh, Spread, Almighty Word ELW 663  
*NEXT PAGE*

**\*Dismissal**

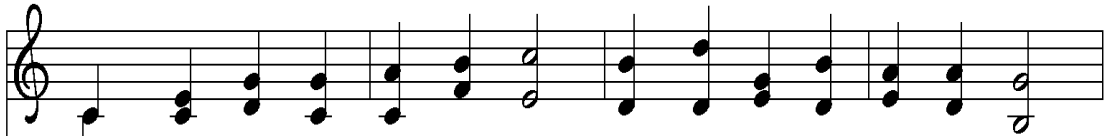
**P:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**Recessional:** Ye Servants Of God arr. Rodger C. Wilson



# Spread, Oh, Spread, Almighty Word



1 Spread, oh, spread, al - might - y Word, spread the reign of God the Lord.  
2 Tell of our Re - deem - er's grace, who, to save our hu - man race  
3 Tell of God the Spir - it giv'n now to guide us on to heav'n,  
4 Lord of har - vest, great and kind, rouse to ac - tion heart and mind;



Send forth our Cre - a - tor's call, heav - en's gifts ex - tend to all.  
and to pay re - bel - lion's price, gave him - self as sac - ri - fice.  
strong and ho - ly, just and true, work - ing both to will and do.  
let the gath - 'ring na - tions all see your light and heed your call.



Text: Jonathan F. Bahnmaier, 1774–1841; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, alt.  
Music: GOTT SEI DANK, J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704  
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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	
The Family of Janet Kauffman			

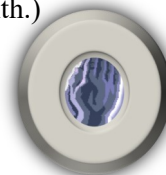
(Names for inclusion on our parish prayer list can be submitted to the church office. The name will remain on the list for one month. At the end of that period please advise the church office, if you would like the name to be continue for another month.)  
Those serving in our military.

## **Homewood:**

Sylvia Malsatzki

## **In their own homes:**

Deborah Manbeck





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

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>SWEETS AND TREATS TODAY</b>                  | <b>FEB 4 10 AM</b>  |
| <b>ST JAMES WELCA BABY BOTTLE</b>               |                     |
| <b>CAMPAIGN ENDS TODAY</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.**

**TODAY**

**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 TODAY!**

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 held 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. 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.



## *Allegheny Chorale*



## *Spring Concert*

St James Lutheran Church

Sunday April 28th

3 PM



## Holy Week Services

Holy Week is the most sacred week of the Christian Church year. We are asked to remember and experience the week which changed the world and hopefully change us as well. This is a week which we get to experience Christ's passion and see how it isn't just another week on the calendar. The following services are here to help us experience the kind of love which was shown on the first Holy Week. We hope you are able to attend and experience a closeness of God's love for us and the world.

### **Palm Sunday– March 24<sup>th</sup> 10:45 AM**

With a joyful noise, we gather at the entrance of Jerusalem waiving our palms. We shout "Hosanna" (save now!) as our cry for a broken world. "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" (Luke 19:38) This service serves as a wonderful opportunity to begin our journey with Jesus to the cross.



### **Maundy Thursday– March 28th 7:00PM**

*"Lord make our sad divisions soon to cease; draw us all closer, each to each, we plead, by drawing all to you, O Prince of peace."* (ELW 463)



On this sacred night, we remember the final night which Jesus gathered with the original twelve disciples sharing with them the commandments of Love and Grace through meal and the washing of feet. This is a night which we give thanks for the gift of communion as we are mere hours away from his death on the cross.

The altar is stripped as we remember Jesus being stripped of his freedom as we hear the words of Psalm 22 preparing us for Good Friday.

## Good Friday– March 29th 2:00PM

*(Communion will not be celebrated)*

We gather at the foot of the cross to hear the words of Jesus's agonizing death for us and for our salvation. In this service of remembrance we ponder his trial, his torture, his carrying the cross, his crucifixion and burial through the use of Scripture and hymns. We also hear the final words of Jesus by candlelight and leave in darkness and silence this night.



## THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD (EASTER SUNDAY) March 31<sup>st</sup> 10:45AM

It has finally arrived!! If you ever wonder if there was a day in which the world was changed, the first Easter was that day. We gather to celebrate Christ being Raised from the Dead!!! Death, sin, fear, cruelty, injustice, and evil no longer have the final say in our lives because the final words belong to Jesus. Christ is risen and we celebrate that freedom!

The church will be decorated to celebrate this momentous occasion.



## Holy Week





Grow  
in Christ



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**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.