



Kirchenblatt March 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

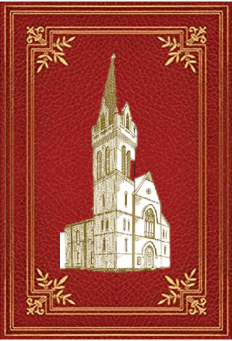
EMAIL: STJAMESALTOONA@GMAIL.COM

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 March 2024

Pastor's March Musings

We are on a journey unlike any other.

I remember when I arrived in Altoona back in 2015 and one of the things my wife & I did after Christmas was a HUGE road trip. Normally after Christmas we travel to Ohio to see friends and family in some capacity. Instead in this case, we chose to visit our friends in Denver. It has been tradition that our college friends meet up for New Years for almost 15 years and going into 2016, we chose to go out to Denver by car. The plan was to travel to Columbus, OH where we would pick up one of our friends and a rental car (nicknamed Olaf after the movie Frozen cause it was a white Rav 4), we would drive to Swedehome, Nebraska to spend the night with a seminary classmate I graduated with and then land in Denver. This 3 day trek was 1,216 miles, days after a massive blizzard through the Great Planes.

Now, I enjoy a good road trip like anyone else but let's just say, this was probably the last big excursion I will take by car. We of course saw some interesting sights along the drive: the world's largest golf tee and wind chime in Kansas, a random NASCAR racetrack in Iowa (at least that is what I was woken up from a nap for), having a loose meat sandwich (apparently a staple in Iowa), seeing countless signs to the Wizard of Oz's Museum, and enjoying probably the best BBQ ribs from a Kansas City gas station. While not as exciting, we are currently on a road trip during the Season of Lent.

We may not see the largest rocking chair or enjoy local delicacies, but it is still a journey unlike any other. It is during this 40-some odd day journey where we will make pit stops to reflect on our faith but also just how deep our relationship with Christ goes. It is in this wilderness we hear of Jesus' human temptations, the prediction of his death, the most powerful words of Scripture in John 3, and we will land in the most memorable moments of Jesus' final days before his death.

Yes, this is an odd journey we will be partaking in over the next few weeks as we reflect on our imperfections, we ponder why God is willing to sacrifice his son, but also hear how love conquers all---including death. My prayer for you, no matter what you are doing or not doing this season as a spiritual practice, is that you experience something unique and with depth this season. May you feel Christ's companionship in a way you have never consider. For when we gather on Good Friday, at the feet of the cross, and hear those words "it is finished," we know that this road trip is only getting started.

Peace to you on the journey

Pastor Drew



Contribution & Attendance Summary
December 2022
Contributions \$868 Average Weekly Attendance:14
December 2023
Contributions \$2,507 Average Weekly Attendance:10

March Birthdays

Kelcie Kenney	3/18
Elijah Svidergol	3/24



INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY	
December 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023	
INCOME	
Bank Interest	\$0.00
Contributions	
General	\$2,507.00
Designated	\$0.00
Special	\$422.00
Other Income	\$4,000.00
	\$6,929.00
EXPENSES	
Pastoral Administration	\$1,471.34
Worship & Music	\$587.54
Office	\$1,460.64
Custodial & Property	\$1,863.83
Uncategorized	\$247.18
	\$5,630.53

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



Mar 1—Genesis 1:1-5, Psalm 118:19-24
Holy Spirit, enlighten me always by the Word of Christ. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mar 2—Genesis 4:1-15, Psalm 2
Lord, grant us repentant faith to worship You rightly. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mar 3—Genesis 22:1-14, Psalm 128
Lord Jesus, we thank You for willingly sacrificing Yourself in our place. Amen.

Mar 4—Genesis 27:1-29, Psalm 54
Father, thank You for blessing us for the sake of Christ. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mar 5—Genesis 37:2-34, Psalm 105:1-11
Lord Jesus, free our hearts from envy, that we may worship and honor You rightly.
Amen.

Mar 6—Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 31
Lord, grant us contentedness and trust in You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mar 7—Exodus 32:1—20, Psalm 32
Lord Jesus, thank You for being our saving advocate with the Father. Amen.

Mar 8—Joshua 3:5-17, Psalm 49
Jesus, thank You for rescuing us from our sins. Amen.

Mar 9—Judges 6:11-27, Psalm 11
Father, we thank You for granting us victory over our enemies in Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Mar 10—Judges 16:4-6, 18-30, Psalm 60
Lord, teach us to trust that Your power is made perfect in weakness. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mar 11—1 Samuel 17:26-51, Psalm 3
Lord Jesus, help us to take refuge in You in times of temptation. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Mar 12—2 Samuel , Psalm 37:1-20
Lord Jesus, thank You for bearing the curse of our sin to redeem us. Amen.

Mar 13—Jonah 1, Psalm 16
Lord, grant us to live faithfully in the vocations You have given us. In Jesus' name.
Amen.

Mar 14—Matthew 26:17-30, Psalm 18:1-6
Lord Jesus, grant us faithfully to partake of Your Supper. In Your name we pray.
Amen.

Mar 15—Luke 22:24-27, Psalm 77
Lord, grant me humility to receive Your gifts and to serve others. In Jesus' name.
Amen.

Mar 16—Luke 22:39-46, Psalm 44

Lord, grant us Your strength and wisdom, that we may follow Your will in all things. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mar 17—Mark 14:43-50, Psalm 129

Lord, grant us to trust in the strength of Your words and not in worldly power or approval. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mar 18—Romans 10:9-17, Psalm 130

Lord, grant us to trust in the strength of Your words and not in worldly power or approval. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mar 19—Mark 14:55-65, Psalm 39

Jesus, Lamb of God, grant us to trust in Your willing sacrifice to save us. Amen.

Mar 20—Luke 22:54-62, Psalm 18:6-20

Lord Jesus, strengthen us faithfully to confess You before men, that You also confess us before Your Father in heaven. Amen.

Mar 21—Mark 15:6-15, Psalm 69:1-18

Dear Father, thank You for declaring us to be righteous in Your Son, Jesus. In His name we pray. Amen.

Mar 22—John 19:1-14, Psalm 38

Lord Jesus, thank You for bearing and breaking the curse for us to deliver us and set us free. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Mar 23—John 19:15-18, Psalm 51

Mighty Lord, we thank You for redeeming us not with gold or silver, but with Your holy precious blood and with Your innocent suffering and death. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Mar 24—Mark 15:21-27, Psalm 71

Lord, grant us strength of purpose that we may faithfully bear our crosses each day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mar 25—Luke 23:27-31, Psalm 35

Lord, grant us gentle spirits that we may comfort those who mourn. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mar 26—Luke 23:32-34, Psalm 88

Lord, grant us merciful hearts that we may love our enemies and persecutors and bring Your reconciliation and forgiveness to all. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Mar 27—Luke 23:39-43, Psalm 89:20-27

Lord Jesus, grant us perseverance, that we may never stop seeking You until we are with You in paradise. In Your name. Amen.

Mar 28—John 19:25-27, Psalm 37:21-40

Lord, grant us devotion to You, that we may be willing to stand by those in need.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mar 29—Luke 23:44-46, Psalm 135

Lord, grant that when our time on earth is ended, we may confidently entrust
ourselves into Your keeping. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mar 30—Mark 15:42-47, Psalm 76

Lord, grant us to find our rest in You, that we may share in Your life forever. In
Jesus' name. Amen.

Mar 31—John 20:11-18, Psalm 107:1-22

Risen Lord Jesus, we thank You for speaking our names at the holy font, that we
may share in Your life forever. 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 APRIL ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS,
FRIDAY MARCH, 15.***



UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES:

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE @ ST JAMES	FEB 28 6 PM
SWEETS AND TREATS	MAR 3 10 AM
MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE @ ST JAMES	MAR 6 6 PM
EASTER FLOWER ORDER DEADLINE	MAR 7 12 PM
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING	MAR 10 12 PM
MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE @ BETHANY	MAR 13 6 PM
MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE @ BETHANY	MAR 20 6 PM
PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP	MAR 24 10:45
MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE	MAR 28 6 PM
*Combined Service with Bethany, a meal will follow worship	
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE @ ST JAMES	MAR 29 2 PM
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE @ BETHANY	MAR 29 7 PM
EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE	MAR 31 10:45
ALLEGHENY CHORALE SPRING CONCERT	APR 28 3 PM

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





**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: March 3, 2024
Provided By: Diane Shultz**

* 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!

**Allegheny Chorale
Spring Concert**



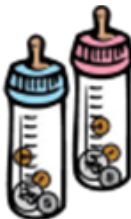
**St James Lutheran Church
Sunday April 28th 3 PM**



ST. JAMES WELCA NEWS



Change for Life
**Baby Bottle
 Campaign**



ST. James WELCA would like to extend a huge Thank You to everyone who participated in our Baby Bottle Campaign for Precious Life!

*We received a beautiful Thank You note from Precious Life for our contribution of \$299.14, which all those who participated made happen. The money collected may go to a variety of needs such as temporary hotel stays for homeless pregnant women, money for transportation for moms who have babies in an out-of-town hospital, material needs for babies, and general needs of the Precious Life ministry.
 Thank You again.*

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

**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

Faith on Tap- 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the Month at Marzoni's in Greenwood
 On Feb 20th, we started a brand new series entitled, "Broken Signposts" which is inspired by *Broken Signpost* by NT Wright. During this series, we will explore various ways in which we do not live up to the ideals of having a more worldly view. This will be an exciting series, which do not have to read prior. We hope to see you there!

Description of the book which is inspiring this series:

In this thoughtful follow-up to *Simply Christian*, today's leading Bible scholar, Anglican bishop, and acclaimed author uses the Gospel of John to reveal how Christianity presents a compelling and relevant explanation for our 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.

Using the Gospel of John as his source, Wright shows how Christianity defines each signpost and illuminates why we so often see them as being "broken" and unattainable. Drawing on the wisdom of the Gospels, Wright explains why these signposts are fractured and damaged and how Christianity provides the vision, guidance, and hope for making them whole once again, ultimately healing ourselves and our world.

Wednesday Bible Studies will be taking a Lenten break

Our group has decided that Wednesdays, during Lent, will serve as a good time to be in prayer. We plan to come back after Easter as we continue our series on Revelation. Keep an eye out when we will regroup in April.

2024 Synod Assembly & Synod Nominations

Synod Assembly is only a couple months away. We are thankful that Rob Stere, Rhonda Barry, & Pastor Drew will serve as this year's delegates. There is extra celebration as this will be the Synod Assembly's first in person assembly since Covid. It will be on Saturday, June 15th at the Blair County Convention Center. There will be an ALL SYNOD WORSHIP SERVICE on Friday, June 14th at Zion -Hollidaysburg (500 Allegheny St) at 6:00pm. We hope to have a more detailed report of what happens at the Assembly in the July/Aug Newsletter.

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 speak with Pastor Drew. Nominations are due in May.

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

Needed: **1 Lay Female, 2 Lay Male, 3 Clergy, 1 Youth (age 15-18)**

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)

Needed: **2 Lay Female, 1 Lay Male, 1 Male Clergy, & 1-Female Clergy**

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.

Synod Secretary (4 Year Term)

Nominees can be either Lay or Clergy

The secretary shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The secretary shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod. The secretary may be either a layperson or a rostered minister. The secretary shall: Keep the minutes of all meetings of the Synod Assembly and Synod Council, be responsible for distribution of such minutes, and perform such other duties as this synod may from time to time direct. Be authorized and empowered, in the name of this synod, to attest all instruments which require the same, and which are signed and sealed by the bishop. In consultation with the bishop, classify and arrange all important papers and documents and deposit them in the archives of this synod. Submit to the secretary of this church at least nine months before each regular Churchwide Assembly a certified list of the voting members elected by the Synod Assembly.

Discipline Committee (6 Yr Term by Assembly Vote)

Needed: **3 Lay Female, 1 Female Clergy, & 3 Lay Male**

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.

Mission Endowment Committee (variety of terms)

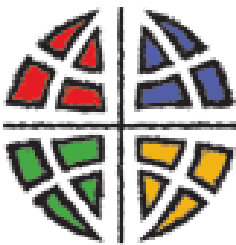
Needed: **2 Clergy/Lay (2 Year Term) & 1 Clergy/Lay (1 Year Term)**

The Mission Endowment Committee overwatches the Synod Endowment and is involved in various disbursements throughout the year. The Mission Endowment Committee works with the Bishop, Synod Treasurer, and Finance Committee.

Churchwide Assembly Representatives for the 2025 Assembly, held in August in Phoenix, AZ. (Will serve just for the churchwide assembly). *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



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



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.

CREATED FOR COMMUNITY
A LENTEN DINNER CHURCH SERIES
WEDNESDAYS, 6PM

BETHANY
 Lutheran Church
 (200 THIRD AVE, ALTOONA)

ST JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH
 (1407 8TH AVE, ALTOONA)

LOCATION SCHEDULE
 FEB 21: BETHANY
 FEB 28: ST JAMES
 MAR 6: ST JAMES
 MAR 13: BETHANY
 MAR 20: BETHANY

Lenten Series: Created for Community Wednesdays, 6pm

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. These services will also be shared locations between Bethany & St James, so we ask you refer to our Facebook page or other announcements for the location of the week. We hope you will join us for what will be a wonder experience of food, fellowship, and deeper sense of community.

For those who will be unable to join us physically, due to whatever reason, you are invited join via Bethany’s Youtube channel (search Bethany Lutheran-Altoona in the search bar) where there will be a reflection from Pastor Drew, along with some reflection questions at 6pm. As we begin this Lenten journey may we feel the presence of Christ as we gather near the cross.

Schedule & Location of Mid-Week Dates are as Follow:

Feb 21st-Bethany
 Mar 6th-St James

Feb 28th- St James
 Mar 13th-Bethany

Mar 20th-Bethany

Holy Week 2024 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.

All Services are in person or can be found via the Church's Youtube Channel at their designated times. Hope to see you there as we journey to the cross and the empty tomb!

Palm Sunday- March 24th 10:45 AM *We will return to sanctuary on this day!*



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.

THE GREAT THREE DAYS (TRIDUUM) Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Easter Morning

The Three Days are truly a roller coaster of emotions, seemingly covering the entire spectrum of the human experience. This can be a tough thing to face in church, especially as we see so many worshipers skipping right from Passion/Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. But this range of emotion is one that should be fully embraced as we come together for this holiest of weeks.

*(Sundays and Seasons 2024,
Year B, copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress)*



Maundy Thursday- March 28th 6:00 PM @ St James Lutheran Fellowship Hall

“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. This service will be celebrated in the Dinner Church Style which we have been using throughout our Midweek Lenten Services.

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 Vigil of Easter-The 1st Service of Easter

March 30th 5:30PM @ St Luke's
Episcopal (806 13th St)



This is *the* night, the night to be immersed in who we are as God's people. This night overflows with biblical images of a world redeemed in Jesus Christ. We come not to get all the answers, but to be filled to the brim with stories that both refresh and perplex us. At first it could appear that the Vigil is a simple movement from dark to light, from death to life. We await the magic moment when the lights come on and, yes, it is Easter

St Luke's Episcopal Church, has invited us to join them for a community wide Easter Vigil Service with Bishop Scanlan (Episcopal Bishop of Diocese of Central Pennsylvania) Bishop Schmitt (Lutheran Bishop of Allegheny Synod) leading the service. During this service, we gather in darkness as we left Good Friday and hear the stories of hope throughout the Old Testament. We will then travel through the various stories of hope where we will rejoice in the light of a new day as we "ring" in the first "Alleluias!" of Easter. If you have never participated in the Vigil of Easter, you do not want to miss out on one of the most ancient services within the Church.



EASTER
VIGIL

*Join
Us!*



THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD (EASTER SUNDAY) March 31st 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!

Worshippers are invited to bring a bell (any shapes or sizes are welcomed) which are to be muffled until announced.

The church will be decorated to celebrate this momentous occasion and will “ring” in moment through the use of bells as we sing the return of “Alleluias.”



Synod/Camp Sequanota Events:

Summer Camp at Sequanota starts in June with plenty of options for individuals of all ages. Check out Camp Sequanota's website for registration and details.

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT (MARCH 22-24)

COST: \$50

(YOUNG ADULTS: 18 - THIRTY-SOMETHING)

This weekend retreat is intended for young adults ages 18-35+ years old. It is time to gather with peers and discuss living life as young adults. This year's topic will focus on technology and life. My phone never seems to rest, it is always beeping and dinging. Our devices seem to pull us into the "always on" world. How can we live with technology and have a life for ourselves. Please come join the conversation as we seek ways forward together. Join us for board games, faith discussion, food and plenty of laughter.

LOVE YOUR MOTHER (EARTH) RETREAT

(APRIL 19-21)

COST: LODGING AND MEALS BY DONATION.

We all need to be outside more. Whether it is a five minute walk, resting by a stream, or a new year's goal to hike more - nature tells us who we are and whose we are. Join us this weekend for a 5K walk through nature as it springs to life, some Bible study, tree planting and an engaging session on how practicing our role in caring for our home. We only have one planet - this weekend is designed to help us appreciate and take ideas home to live more faithfully as a steward of it.

Tend Festival (June 23-25 at Camp Sequanota): Where are you filling up your faith? As the church begins to shift to live in our new post-Christian culture. God's people still need a place to be inspired and grow in our faith. It is hard to do weekly Sunday school or Bible study. Come to the Tend Festival to share in intentional time of faith discussions, good music, art, worship, ecology and fellowship. We all still need community support and nurture and this event has been a great way to find that community. This event will have an open schedule allowing participants the freedom to pick what is right for them. It will include options for multiple workshops, open recreation & hiking, food and time to refresh yourself and the family. More information about the event and workshop topics will be released on Camp Sequanota's website.

The Weekend (December 6th-8th in Huntingdon): We know the lives of those in High School can be difficult. Not only striving for the academic requirements of class but also the social demands of trying to be star athletes, president of 4 organizations, a noble prize winner, and starting a small business. Some of these seem unrealistic but are sometimes a real burden placed upon youth and all individuals. Our society has bred the need for people to be the top 1% of everything. *The Weekend* is a time where individuals can come and be you without any expectations. This 3 day event will have youth come to be in community, learn how they have special and unique gifts, and just come to have no requirements. *Further details will be forth coming.*





Easter Flowers

Your name (as you wish it to appear in the bulletin)

This Donation is made:

IHO: _____

IMO: _____

Choice of Flowers:

Yellow Tulips 5/6 Bulb (\$12) Red Tulips 5/6 Bulb (\$15)

8" Daffodils (\$15) Lilies single stem (\$16)

Multi-Color 3 Bulb Hyacinths (\$13.50)

Amount of Contribution: \$ _____ Envelope Number: _____

Please Check One:

Yes, I do want to take the flower(s) home with me.

No, I do not want to take the flower(s) home with me. I would like them to be given to a shut-in or friend of St. James.

Please use the My Offering envelope in your pew to place your order and payment. Check the Flower Fund box on the envelope and place in the offering plate.

Orders must be received by 12 PM March 7, 2024

St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

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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