



Kirchenblatt May 2024

(Parish Newsletter)

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



Join us for Worship Sundays at 10:45 am

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Vice Pastor's Report	2-3	Prayer List	4	Announcements	9-18
Financials	4	Daily Readings	5-7	Committee List	20
Birthdays	4				

**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

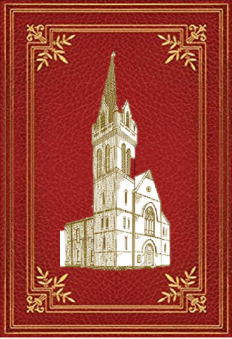
EMAIL: STJAMESALTOONA@GMAIL.COM

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 May 2024

Pastor's May Musings

Choose your own adventure!

One of my dear friends from camp was a big fan of “Choose your own adventure” books. For those who don't know this style of writing, you come to the end of a page/chapter, and you are given a choice of what you want the next steps to be. This could involve taking the trail leading to a castle or the trail leading to a swamp or something else which creatively relates to the scenario. In fact, my friend's favorite road trip activity was reading them as one is traveling from place to place, which is very fitting. Several years ago, her and I were taking a road trip from Ohio-> Philadelphia to visit a fellow camp friend-> to Florida where we would work on leadership staff that summer and yes, we did the choose your own adventure reading. With that being over 15 years ago, I cannot tell you the story and the various ways in which we moved the narrative, what I can say is it made driving on I-95 a little easier.

This Easter, we read from the Gospel of Mark which has its own choose your own adventure narrative. There is typically the short version which ends with Mark 16: 8, *When the women ran from the tomb, they were confused and shaking all over. They were too afraid to tell anyone what had happened.* (Common English Version) or the extended version of Mark 16:9-20 which involves Jesus appearing to Mary Magdalene, two other disciples, commissioning the disciples & his ascension. If you feel I am joking, you are more than welcome to look up the short ending or long ending in Mark. *I think we as Christians who celebrate Easter tend to lean towards the longer edition. *

Yet, as we are post Easter Sunday and empty tomb, we also are in a choose your own adventure setting: we can just have things go back to normal, we can just not speak about easter unless someone ask you where the pretty Tulips came from, or we can speak to how the Easter experience was meaningful to you. How you choose to live into the coming months, Post-Easter, is truly up to you. Yet, I want you to consider what each choice could bring. Nothing could happen or maybe you create a space for someone to share what Easter and the experience of faith means to them. Yes, there is the possibility you opened Pandora's box where someone unpacks a lot of religious baggage, but you may just find yourself in a situation where you are showing your friend how you are there to be with them in the midst of that experience. *Let me also stress, that if it is something heavy, help your friend(s) seek the necessary mental or spiritual trained personnel who can walk with your friend(s) in a safer environment.*

No matter which adventure you choose to continue in, know how the Easter Promise of Christ's resurrection continues to claim and live within each of us. It serves as a reminder how God never tires of us and is always a part of us. While we may be afraid & amazed by the Easter adventure, it is one in which we boldly continue.

Peace

Pastor Drew



Contribution & Attendance Summary

February 2023

Contributions \$1,214
Average Weekly Attendance:13

February 2024

Contributions \$1,025
Average Weekly Attendance:10

INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY

February 1, 2024 - February 29, 2024

INCOME

Bank Interest	\$0.00
Contributions	
General	\$973.00
Designated	\$52.00
Special	\$0.00
Other Income	\$29,000.00
	\$30,025.00

EXPENSES

Pastoral Administration	\$0.00
Worship & Music	\$602.34
Office	\$1,745.59
Custodial & Property	\$11,927.00
Uncategorized	\$21.31
	\$21,739.24

May Birthdays

Donna Foster 5/22
Michael Savino Jr 5/29
Andrea Svidergol 5/16
Donna Wilt 5/24
Ethan Wilt 5/1



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



May 1—1 Peter 1:1-2, 64, Psalm 116:12-19

Heavenly Father, thank You for giving us grace and peace through Christ as we journey through this earthly life. In Jesus' name. Amen.

May 2—1 Peter 1:3-5, Psalm 52

Thank You, Jesus, for the gift of new birth that is ours by Your Word and Spirit. Amen.

May 3—1 Peter 1:6-9, Psalm 63:1-5, 8-11

Heavenly Father, fix our eyes on Christ amid our earthly trials. In Jesus' name. Amen.

May 4—1 Peter 1:10-12, Psalm 135:15-21

Holy Lord, we praise You for Your Word, which bears witness to our salvation in Christ Jesus. In His name. Amen.

May 5—1 Peter 1:13-16, Psalm 103:6-14

Holy God, conform us to Your will, making us sober-minded and gracious each day for God's good gifts that are ours in Christ. In Jesus' name. Amen.

May 6—1 Peter 1:17-21, Psalm 85:1-7

O Lord Jesus, holy and awesome is Your name. Teach us to treasure Your promises to us. Amen.

May 7—Romans 3:19-26, Psalm 143

Holy Lord, we praise You for Your Word, Law and Gospel, which brings about saving faith and eternal life. In Jesus' name. Amen.

May 8—1 Peter 1:22—2:3, Psalm 62:5-10

Heavenly Father, remind us of Your love for us in Christ and help us love one another. In Jesus' name. Amen.

May 9—Luke 24:36-53, Psalm 130

Holy Lord Jesus, we praise You for the gift of the Spirit in our lives today. Amen.

May 10—1 Peter 2:4-10, Psalm 77:11-15

Dear Lord Jesus, we praise You for choosing us to be Yours forever. Amen.

May 11—1 Peter 2:11-12, Psalm 119:97-104

Heavenly Father, help us keep our lives honorable as we imitate Christ. In His name. Amen.

May 12—John 19:23-27, Psalm 81:10-16

Gracious Lord, thank You for faithful mothers. Help us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus each day, watching for His glorious return. In Jesus' name. Amen.

May 13—1 Peter 2:13-17, Psalm 146:5-9

Lord God, help us use our Christian freedom to love and serve those You have put in authority over us. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

May 14—1 Peter 2:18-20, Psalm 111

Heavenly Father, help us follow Jesus' example in our words and our work. In His name. Amen.

May 15—1 Peter 2:21-25, Psalm 31

Lord Jesus, help us joyfully endure suffering for Your sake. Amen.

May 16—1 Peter 3:1-7, Psalm 32

Lord God, You created man and woman, giving them special roles in Your creation. Help us love and serve each other in these roles. In Jesus' name. Amen.

May 17—1 Peter 3:8-12, Psalm 78:9-16

Heavenly Father, make Your church today unified in thought, word, and deed in Christ. In Jesus' name. Amen.

May 18—Romans 8:31-39, Psalm 33

Heavenly Father, we ask that You end all wars and bring peace to Your creatures. In Jesus' name. Amen.

May 19—John 16:4-15, Psalm 135:8-14

Lord Jesus, thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to the church so that Your work may be extended in and through us for the good of all. Amen.

May 20—Ecclesiastes 3:1-11, Psalm 104:1-23

Lord God, You hold all things in Your hand. Teach us to thank, praise, serve, and obey You all our days for Your goodness to us in Christ. In Jesus' name. Amen.

May 21—1 Peter 3:13-17, Psalm 116:1-4, 16-19

Heavenly Father, help us be prepared to share the hope of the Gospel with all who need to hear it. In Jesus' name. Amen.

May 22—1 Peter 3:18-22, Psalm 128

Lord God, help us endure hardship for Your name as we cling to Your promise of new life to us in our Baptism. In Jesus' name. Amen.

May 23—1 Peter 4:1-6, Psalm 94:8-14

Holy Lord Jesus, help us strive to do Your will by loving You and serving our neighbor. Amen.

May 24—1 Peter 4:7-11, Psalm 22:19-26

O Lord, teach us to urgently work to love and serve our neighbor as we look eagerly to the day when Christ will return. In Jesus' name. Amen.

May 25—1 Peter 4:12-19, Psalm 1

Lord God, help us love those who slander and reject us for Your sake. In Jesus' name. Amen.

May 26—Isaiah 6:1-8, Psalm 46:1-7

Holy Trinity, thank You for making us clean through Your Word so that we may, with the angels, praise You forever. In Jesus' name. Amen.

May 27—1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Psalm 27

Heavenly Father, as we remember those who have died, assure us that we have the promise of eternal life in Christ. In Jesus' name. Amen.

May 28—1 Peter 5:1-5, Psalm 132:8-12

Jesus, our Good Shepherd, thank You for calling us to be Your own and leading us each day by Your Word. Amen.

May 29—1 Peter 5:6-11, Psalm 24:4-10

Lord God, help us cast our anxieties on You, knowing You care for us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

May 30—1 Peter 5:12-14, Psalm 104:24-35

Heavenly Father, continually strengthen Your church to be a supportive community built on the peace of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

May 31—Luke 1:39-57, Psalm 113

Holy Jesus, help us look forward to our great reunion with fellow believers at Your return with great joy. In Your name we pray. 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 JUNE ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS,
WEDNESDAY MAY, 15.***



UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES:

ALLEGHENY CHORALE SPRING CONCERT	APR 28 3 PM
SWEETS AND TREATS	MAY 5 10 AM
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING	MAY 5 12 PM
POTLUCK DINNER	MAY 19 12 PM
CHURCH PICNIC	JUN 23 11 AM



SWEETS AND TREATS

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF
EACH MONTH.



OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS WILL
BE: May 5, 2024

Provided By: Bob Beahm

* 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!



The next Potluck Dinner is

May 19, 2024

12PM



NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 5, 2024

12 PM



Free to the public



***Sunday, April 28, 2024 at 3pm
St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church, Altoona***

***Tuesday, April 30, 2024 at 7pm
First Presbyterian Church, Tyrone***

Deborah Estright, Director

* Congregation is asked to bring cookies for the reception after the concert.

CHURCH PICNIC

Planning for the church picnic has begun. You can use the sign up sheet on the stand in the narthex or on the foyer bulletin board. Or use the sheet on the next page.

Church Picnic will be held June 23, 2024 at Highland Park, Pavilion #2





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.

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.



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.*

Be part of Thrivent's 2025 calendar

Sometimes we get so busy in life that we miss the everyday blessings around us. It could be the babbling brook, the sound of laughter, the playfulness of a puppy, the gentle breeze whistling through the trees, the peacefulness of a cup of coffee with your morning devotion.

We've selected "Everyday blessings" as the theme for the 2025 Thrivent calendar, and we need your help providing the original photos and artwork that are the cornerstone of this cherished piece.

As you reflect on your life and the gifts you've been given by God, what do you see as the everyday blessings? It's often easy to see "who" the blessings are, but how else are you experiencing the everyday blessings from God?

Find out how to submit entries and to preorder your 2025 calendar at thrivent.com/calendar The deadline for submissions is June 30, 2024

2023 at a glance



**157,303
Thrivent
Action
Teams held**

**\$31.4 M
Dollars distributed
through Thrivent
Choice**

**\$3.4 M
Donations made
Through
Thrivent's online
giving platforms**

thrivent®



Bible Study Update

Wednesday Afternoon Bible Studies: Wednesday Bible Study group returned early April at 1pm in the Basement Fellowship Hall, as we have continued our series on Revelation. Some dates we will not be meeting during the summer because Pastor Drew will be gone for various points due to other commitments but this will not hinder our experience. Hope to see there!

Faith on Tap: We continue to meet on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month as we will continue our series on Broken Signpost. Hope to see you there!



Summer Picnic Worship!

With summer upon us, we figured we would enjoy the weather and outdoors as part of worship. We held these picnic worships together, last summer, with our friends from Bethany and will be doing it again, this summer. We will be gathering at Highland Park for these Outdoor Picnic Worship once a month during the summer at 10am as a combined service between Bethany & St. James. Those dates are June 23rd, July 28th, and August 25th. We will have an abridged communion worship service and will then enjoy the picnic festivities. The main dish will be provided for these picnics. We are asking for individuals to bring a side and/or a dessert to be shared with those in attendance. We also ask for you to provide your own appropriate beverage. We are also planning to have some form of entertainment once our worship



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