



Kirchenblatt June 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

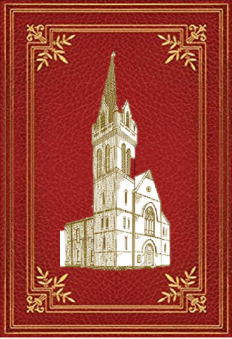
EMAIL: STJAMESALTOONA@GMAIL.COM

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 June 2024

Pastor's June Musings

*Little Faith is plenty in our moments of doubt~ Rev Dr Karoline Lewis
Wisdom helps us to break the walls of polarization and brokenness. ~
Rev Dr Emile Townes*

*Jesus is the patron saint of Irritations. He challenges people in a variety of ways
to ask about the story. ~ Padraig Tauma*

As I mentioned in my sermon for Pentecost Sunday (May 19th), I participated in the Festival of Homiletics in Pittsburgh. For those who were not in attendance that Sunday, the Festival of Homiletics is an annual preaching conference by Luther Seminary (located in Minneapolis, Minnesota) held in various locations each year. This is probably a continuing event many preachers look forward to annually. This year's theme was *Sustaining and Nurturing the Preaching Life*.

As I am looking back at my assorted notes and quotes I placed on Facebook (it was really hard to pick just one to share), I consider the biggest take away from this year's festival is to take care of yourself when it comes to your story and the story of our faith. Now I know that may sound complicated. Yet the story we not only live into as humanity and followers of Jesus is a unique parallel. Our stories are ones with joys, heartaches, triumphs, and even moments we wish to let go. As each respective leader told us there is a richness in the story because when we find that space to share it, our stories can breath life into ourselves and others.

As Dr Anna Carte Florence, a preaching professor at Columbia Theological Seminary, stated “when we get back to Scripture (outside of an academic view point), it is stronger than any caffeine bar you could eat.”

As we come off the experience of Pentecost Sunday, we are to recognize just how empowering the Spirit can be in our lives. We can easily choose to forget about the Spirit because it seems like that questionable character within the Trinity. It truly is a wildcard when you understand what the Spirit can do, and I would guess that is a little scary of the direction it can lead us. We also must take a little extra time to decipher how or what the Spirit is trying to tell us as a community of faith.

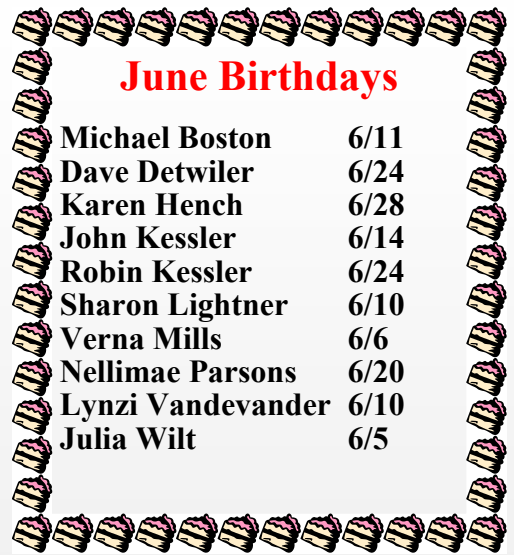
Getting back to stories, it is this Spirit which helps influence our stories. It serves as a reminder how God continues to be an active part of lives in those moments of question, concerns, and yes.... heartbreak. When we live into the Spirit and/or story of faith, we not only have an opportunity to gain a richness in the story but we may even be willing to live into it. We can feel comfortable to speak more openly about our church, where our faith and life make a connection, you may even be willing to invite someone into those very conversations. The Spirit is the limit aka there is no limit.

I believe the story of St James and the work of the Spirit is up to something, what that ultimately is, I do not know. Let us take time, together and personally, to breath in the Spirit, let us converse and pray with one another, and let us live into our authentic selves to go into places where we may never have expected.

Peace

Pastor Drew McCaffery

<p>Contribution & Attendance Summary</p> <p>March 2023</p> <p>Contributions \$1,075 Average Weekly Attendance:13</p> <p>March 2024</p> <p>Contributions \$1,874 Average Weekly Attendance:10</p>



June Birthdays

Michael Boston	6/11
Dave Detwiler	6/24
Karen Hench	6/28
John Kessler	6/14
Robin Kessler	6/24
Sharon Lightner	6/10
Verna Mills	6/6
Nellimae Parsons	6/20
Lynzi Vandevander	6/10
Julia Wilt	6/5

INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY
March 1, 2024 - March 31, 2024

INCOME	
Bank Interest	\$0.00
Contributions	
General	\$1,874.00
Designated	\$237.00
Special	\$0.00
Other Income	\$4,000.00
	\$6,111.00
EXPENSES	
Pastoral Administration	\$2,481.00
Worship & Music	\$677.34
Office	\$2,692.87
Custodial & Property	\$3,058.73
Uncategorized	\$1,577.51
	\$10,487.45

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



Jun 1—2 Corinthians 5:16-21, Psalm 30:1-5

Heavenly Father, bless our summer plans, guiding us with Your wisdom and grace. In the name of Jesus, Your Son. Amen.

Jun 2—Philippians 1:1-11, Psalm 33:1-11

Thank You, heavenly Father, for guaranteeing that our journey is in Your strong hands and You will finish this work You've begun. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jun 3—Romans 12:1-7, Psalm 40:1-8

Remind us, Savior, that our significance has already come since You have included us in Your Body, the church. Amen.

Jun 4—Ecclesiastes 9:7-12, Psalm 20

Lord Jesus, give us strength and focus to do those good things You have put into our hands today. Amen.

Jun 5—Romans 12:9-12, Psalm 71:14-18

Heavenly Father, thank You for directing us to the joy, hope, and care You give us in Christ. In His name. Amen.

Jun 6—Psalm 127, Psalm 26

Guide us by Your plans and bring them to success, O God, according to Your promises and might. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jun 7—Romans 12:13-21, Psalm 138:1-7

Dear Jesus, thank You for seeking us. Send us out with Your mercy to the lonely. Amen.

Jun 8—Isaiah 11:1-9, Psalm 73:21-28

Father, thank You for welcoming us and giving us merciful directions every day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jun 9—Isaiah 40:24-32, Psalm 27

Heavenly Father, what mercy and kindness You bring us even here in the land of the living! In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jun 10—Colossians 3:1-4, Psalm 145:13-21

Lift up our eyes, Lord Jesus, to see by faith Your promises and the heaven to come. Amen.

Jun 11—Matthew 13:24-43, Psalm 106:43-48

Lord Jesus, help us wait patiently for the final harvest, trusting You to bring in Your own. Amen.

Jun 12—Colossians 3:5-12, Psalm 96:1-9

Heavenly Father, dress us in the kindness and patience that You gave the world through Your Son, Jesus. In His name. Amen.

Jun 13—Mark 4:1-20, Psalm 25

Thank You, heavenly Father, for bringing us far more than all we can ask and imagine. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jun 14—Colossians 3:14-17, Psalm 34:8-22

Heavenly Father, let the peace of Your forgiveness and mercy rule over us each day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jun 15—Luke 5:1-11, Psalm 130

Jesus, give us the clear directions that we need today and the faith to follow them. Amen.

Jun 16—Matthew 7:1-12, Psalm 119:105-112

Heavenly Father, thank You for knowing our weaknesses and dealing with us with Your perfect kindness. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jun 17—1 Thessalonians 5:1-8, Psalm 121

Lord Jesus, come quickly, as You have promised! Amen.

Jun 18—Mark 5:24-34, Psalm 23

Dear Jesus, give us faith alone by which we receive Your healing and gifts. Amen.

Jun 19—1 Thessalonians 5:9-14, Psalm 146

Lord God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—bring Your judgment and justice to deliver us from danger. Amen.

Jun 20—Ephesians 5:1-14, Psalm 54

Dear Jesus, thank You for Your sacrifice, a beautiful expression of Your love. Amen.

Jun 21—1 Thessalonians 5:15-24, Psalm 111

Lord God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thank You for cleansing us perfectly in Your sight so we are ready for the return of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Jun 22—Galatians 5:16-26, Psalm 124

Holy Spirit, continue to bring Your rich fruits into our lives and, through us, continue to be a blessing to others. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jun 23—1 Corinthians 13, Psalm 13

Heavenly Father, remind us that now we are children but children held firmly in Your care. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jun 24—Titus 2:11-15, Psalm 86:11-17

Heavenly Father, continue to remind us that Your grace has come and will not leave us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jun 25—2 Peter 3:1-10, Psalm 61

Jesus, come to us when the time is right, when You know best. Amen.

Jun 26—Titus 3:1-7, Psalm 37:1-11

Father, thank You for making us heirs of eternal life and giving us the gift of being Your children. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jun 27—Lamentations 3:19-33, Psalm 51:1-12

Thank You, heavenly Father, for the endless supply of mercy that is new every day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jun 28—Titus 3:8-11, Psalm 19:1-11

Heavenly Father, please keep us focused on Your inheritance and the good that we can do today as we wait. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jun 29—1 Corinthians 3:5-15, Psalm 147:1-11

Heavenly Father, thank You for bringing a harvest of living faith in Your church, all by Your work. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jun 30—Mark 5:1-20, Psalm 85

Jesus, remind us to share the story of Your mercy and how You heal us even unto eternal life. 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,
SATURDAY JUNE, 15.***



UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES:

**BIBLE STUDY @ BETHANY
SWEETS AND TREATS
FEED THE HUNGRY @ ST JAMES
CHURCH PICNIC
SUMMER PICNIC WORSHIP
SUMMER PICNIC WORSHIP
COUNCIL MEETING**

**MAY 29 1 PM
JUN 2 10 AM
JUN 12 11:30AM
JUN 23 11 AM
JUL 28 10 AM
AUG 25 10 AM
SEP 15 12 PM**

SWEETS AND TREATS

**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF
EACH MONTH.**



**OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS WILL
BE: June 2, 2024**

Provided By: Lori & Mike Savino

*** 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!**





NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

September 15, 2024

12 PM

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. If something changes with these picnics, we will keep you in the loop. See you on June 23rd at 11:00am at Highland Park!





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. Held the 2nd Wednesday of the month. **Next feeding is June 12.**



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!

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



Allegheny Chorale Concert

The concert well attended, and everyone loved our church and the acoustics. There were a lot of good comments about the treats that we served. The attendees all loved coming down after the concert to sit, talk, and enjoy the cookies, coffee, and tea. Great concert Allegheny Chorale!



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.*

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