



Kirchenblatt July 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	8-14
Financials	4	Daily Readings	5-7	Committee List	16
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

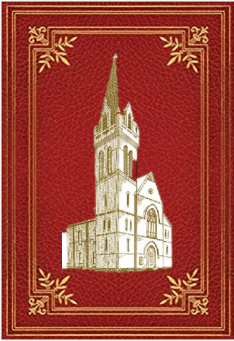
EMAIL: STJAMESALTOONA@GMAIL.COM

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 July 2024

Pastor's July Musings

*We're gonna teach 'em how to say goodbye. One last time
~Christopher Jackson as George Washington (Hamilton: the
Musical)*

By the time you are reading this, the news has already been shared of my & Pastor Amanda's departure to Maryland where we will be serving new calls. For many, we have been fortunate enough to be able to share our goodbyes and celebrate the wonderful ministry we have had together, these past 9 years. For some, we have been unable to have those conversations and it breaks my heart not having the time to do so.

As I have been in the midst of backing up my office, I have come across a wide variety of keepsakes from cards, bulletins, notes, and so much more. It truly is hard to put into words as I reflect on the joys and sorrows of ministry. I think about all the celebrations which have included joint worship services, our first worship service from the original covid lockdown, call Sunday in May 2015, the first ventures of Faith on Tap, and pictures of the Descending Jesus Balloon from Ascension Sunday. I consider the heartbreaks of funeral bulletins from the many saints who have gone before us and other bits of difficult news and announcements which we have had to share and wrestle with. I could spend what feels like a life time going down memory road.

In Lin-Manuel Miranda's biopic musical, *Hamilton*, there is a scene in the 2nd Act entitled *One Last Time*. It is during this song where President George Washington (Christopher Jackson) and Alexander Hamilton (Miranda) sing together as Washington shares the news of him not seeking a 3rd term and retiring. This song very captivating if you have not heard it. I think the moment which really hit home was when the cast of *Hamilton* sang assorted songs at a farewell concert with Pres Barrack Obama

(and yes, I understand Pres. Obama may not be some individual's favorite president). To see Jackson & Miranda sing a song about the original departing President, in front of the current departing President...a high sense of emotions in that scene (you can look up the video on Youtube for those interested).

While my final Sunday will not have Christopher Jackson singing his heart out (I am writing this musing before June 30th's service and my ultimate departure), I am still overcome with those similar emotions. I am quite certain, June 30th will be a day with culmination of emotions, for you and especially for me. As I reflect on what this new phase of our ministries will look like, especially as the roles and relationship will change, it is one in which I look towards a sense of hope. Yes, I will not longer be your Pastor. We are still able to be friends and companions in this faithful journey of life & faith. You have graced me with a space where I have been able to grow into my own as a Pastor in this greater Church and I truly thank you for this precious gift. I know in the time of transition you will be making the space to heal, to continue in doing the work of the church, and an invigoration as you eagerly await for the next minister who will join you in ministry.

I ask that in this time of waiting, you not only trust in your council and the staff but I ask you to keep them in prayer and support them in this transition because they too are grieving and doing their best to help keep the focus on God's mission in this unique time. It will be your comradery as a community of faith which will be an important part as you faithfully prepare for the next phase of ministry. Council will be in various conversations with the Synod as you enter into this next phase.

As I pen my closing musings. As I say goodbye, thank you, and leave you with my blessing and heart, it truly has been an honor to serve alongside you in this ministry. I will take our time together with me as an extension of your ministry. I do believe this is not the end of our time together as I am sure will see each other again. Until next time my friends, may God's presence be with you always.

Pastor Drew McCaffery

Contribution & Attendance Summary	
April 2023	
Contributions \$1,015	
Average Weekly Attendance:12	
April 2024	
Contributions \$785	
Average Weekly Attendance:10	

July Birthdays



INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY	
April 1, 2024 - April 30, 2024	
INCOME	
Bank Interest	\$0.00
Contributions	
General	\$785.00
Designated	\$0.00
Special	\$0.00
Other Income	\$4,000.00
	\$4,785.00
EXPENSES	
Pastoral Administration	\$0.00
Worship & Music	\$945.34
Office	\$1,871.30
Custodial & Property	\$1,759.68
Uncategorized	\$0.00
	\$4,576.32

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, Donna Wilt, Bill Dambeck
 Carolyn Feather, Judy Dambeck,
 Family of Janet Kauffman,
 Family of Jean Bickel
 Those serving in our military

Homewood
 Sylvia Malsatzki

In their own homes:
 Deborah Manbeck



Jul 1—1 Corinthians 1:1-10, Psalm 119:1-8

Thank You, Lord Jesus, for the gift of certainty. Amen.

Jul 2—Luke 1:39-45, Psalm 119:9-16

Holy Spirit, grant that I may always answer God's promises with "let it be to me" (Luke 1:38). In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jul 3—1 John 2:1-14, Psalm 119:17-24

Help us, Lord, rightly confess "our common salvation" through faithful public worship. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jul 4—2 Peter 3, Psalm 119:25-32

O Lord, "make me understand how I have gone astray" (Job 6:24) and redirect me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jul 5—1 Peter 5, Psalm 119:33-40

Lord, bless my pastor and congregation with faithfulness. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jul 6—1 Corinthians 10:1-22, Psalm 119:41-48

Thank You, Lord Jesus, for redeeming my soul and my body. Amen.

Jul 7—2 Peter 1:1-11, Psalm 119:49-56

Lord, awaken "my ear to hear as those who are taught" (Isaiah 50:4). Amen.

Jul 8—Luke 24:13-35, Psalm 119:57-64

Grant, O Lord, that Your Old Testament would impress upon me the significance of the New. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jul 9—Revelation 20, Psalm 119:65-72

"from the crafts and assaults of the devil...Good Lord deliver us" (LSB, p. 288). Amen.

Jul 10—Matthew 12:15-32, Psalm 119:73-80

O Holy Spirit, graciously turn my heart, that I may not "despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it." Amen.

Jul 11—Matthew 18:1-20, Psalm 119:81-88

Help me, O Lord. Not to take judgement into my own hands but to wait upon You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jul 12—Romans 18-32, Psalm 119:89-96

Redeemer of the entire creation, preserve marriage in our midst. In Your name, Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Jul 13—Romans 15:1-13, Psalm 119:97-104

Keep me in Your truth, dear Lord! "Your word is truth" (John 17:17). In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jul 14—Romans 16:17-23, Psalm 119:105-112

Lord, keep me faithful to Your Word. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jul 15—Acts 17:16-34, Psalm 119:113-120

“O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise” (Psalm 51:15).

Amen.

Jul 16—James 5:1-12, Psalm 119:121-128

Dear Father, “I am content! My Jesus ever lives” (LSB 468:1), having earned full forgiveness for me and for my neighbor. Help me to live contentedly toward others. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Jul 17—Ephesians 2:11-22, Psalm 119:129-136

Thank You, dear Jesus, for the broken will and humility of spirit that You gave to each of Your blessed apostles, that we might focus all our attention upon You. Amen.

Jul 18—Luke 2:1-14, Psalm 119:137-144

Thank You, Father, that Your Son’s apostles were speaking also to me when they proclaimed “the good news about Jesus” (Acts 8:35). In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Jul 19—1 Timothy 1, Psalm 119:145-152

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and ...take not Your Holy Spirit from me” (Psalm 51:10-11). In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Jul 20—Luke 11:1-13, Psalm 119:153-160

Lord, help me to “continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel” (Colossians 1:23) by “praying in the Holy Spirit” (Jude 20). For Jesus’ sake. Amen.

Jul 21—1 John 3:11-24, Psalm 119:161-168

Continually give me Your Holy Spirit, O Lord, that I may devote myself “to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:42), thus keeping myself in Your love. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Jul 22—John 20:1-2, 10-18, Psalm 119:169-170

“Wait for Me,” declares the LORD” (Zephaniah 3:8). We will indeed wait, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Jul 23—Luke 24:36-53, Psalm 120

Dear Jesus, retain me in the most holy faith by keeping me close to Your preached Word and Your Sacraments, that I may show mercy toward those who doubt. Amen.

Jul 24—Genesis 19:1-16, Psalm 121

Give me the courage of faith, O Christ, so that others might be spared the judgment of hell. Use me, by Your grace, to snatch them from the fire. Amen.

Jul 25—Mark 10:35-45, Psalm 122

Father, grant me Your grace, that the mercy overflowing to me would indeed flow to others. By the grace of Your Holy Spirit, spare me from falling into the same sins from which I would help others to escape. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Jul 26—Isaiah 9:1-7, Psalm 123

Help me, heavenly Father, rightly to abhor those things that expose my fellow Christian to temptation, and guard me against my own desires. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jul 27—Deuteronomy 30, Psalm 124

Thank You, dear Lord Jesus, that graciously You ascribe to me all that is Yours. Amen.

Jul 28—Revelation 7:9-17, Psalm 125

Thank You, dear heavenly Father, that You sent Your Son, Christ Jesus my Lord, to bear in His body all my blame, that He might present me "holy and blameless and above reproach before Him" (Colossians 1:22). In His name. Amen.

Jul 29—Luke 9:28-36, Psalm 126

Draw me to You, O Holy Trinity and undivided unity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—that I may live in Your glory forever. Amen.

Jul 30—Luke 15, Psalm 127

Amen, Lord Jesus! Amen! Amen!

Jul 31—John 8:31-59, Psalm 128

Thanks be to You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, that You are my one God and my only Savior. 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,
MONDAY JULY, 15.***



UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES:

COMBINED SERVICE @ BETHANY

JUN 30 10 AM

***POTLUCK TO FOLLOW**

***EVERYONE IS ASKED TO BRING A POTLUCK ITEM**

MAIN DISH NIS PROVIDED

SUMMER PICNIC WORSHIP

JUL 28 10 AM

SUMMER PICNIC WORSHIP

AUG 25 10 AM

COUNCIL MEETING

SEP 15 12 PM





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 July 28 at 10:00am 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 July 10.**



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!



Thank You for your service to our church and congregation. Blessings on your new congregation and your service to the Lutheran Church



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.



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.*



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Altoona, PA 16602**

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**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