



# Kirchenblatt February 2025

(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 Eli Hess  
Phone: 814-943-3972**

**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.**



## FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S DESK February 2025

Dear Members of St. James:

Grace, mercy and peace from God, our Father, and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As we enter into the month of February, we will discover that there are two holidays in February, Groundhog Day and Valentine's Day. Groundhog Day comes from a tradition of Northern Europe in which when an animal on February 2<sup>nd</sup> comes out of its lair after hibernation to either to see or not see its shadow. If the animal sees its shadow, then winter is not over and there will be 6 more weeks of winter; but if the animal does not see its shadow, then spring has arrived.

Groundhog Day reminds me so much of the Christian prospective of death and the second Coming of Jesus Christ. If we as Christians are the Groundhog and we have died, and we are coming out of our lairs or in other words out of the grave after our hibernation or sleep of death at Christ's Second Coming. Therefore, if we too come out of the grave at the Second Coming and we see our shadow which is our sin. We too will then return to the grave and into the second death because our sin has condemned us, and we will remain in the grave until the Final Judgement. But if we wake from our sleep of death at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ and find that there is no shadow because our sins have been forgiven through the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Then the winter of our death is over, and we can spring into Eternal life through the resurrection of the dead and we can enter the Kingdom of Heaven with Christ.

Valentine's Day is a holiday of love where we talk about love in many ways, including romantic love, but we sometimes forget the most precious of all of love that can be shown which is the Love of God that comes to us through God's gift of Jesus Christ. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son to die for us. Through His death and resurrection, we have forgiveness of sins and eternal life which are the most precious gifts that God could ever give us. God gave us this gift of Jesus Christ, because we failed in our ability to live up to God's standard of the Law and we will die in our sins. But because of Christ's Death on the Cross, we have a chance to have our sins forgiven and eternal life with God in the Kingdom of Heaven. This gift of grace was given to us not because of something that we have done, but because of God's great love for us that He did not want us to be condemned, but to have eternal life with Him. This is such a precious gift that we should never take for granted.

May you accept God's Gift of Love and Peace through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior,

*Mark Hoover*

*President of Saint James Lutheran Church*

*Love is  
God's  
greatest gift*

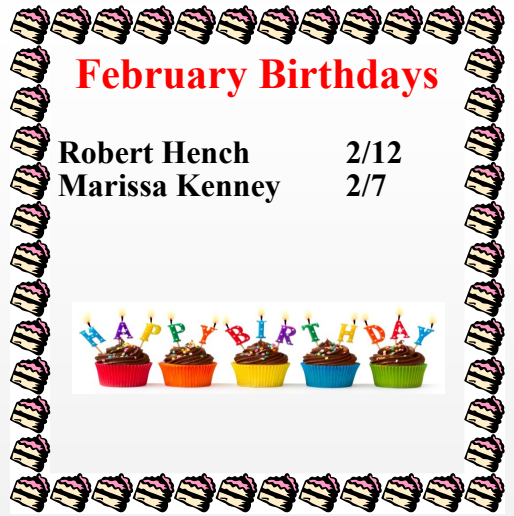
**Contribution & Attendance Summary**

**November 2023**

Contributions \$726.50  
Average Weekly Attendance: 9

**November 2024**

Contributions \$721.00  
Average Weekly Attendance: 8



**INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY**

**November 1, 2024 November 30, 2024**

**INCOME**

Bank Interest	\$0.00
Contributions	
General	\$660.00
Designated	\$61.00
Special	\$0.00
Other Income	\$4,000.00
	\$4,721.00

**EXPENSES**

Pastoral Administration	\$564.48
Worship & Music	\$0.00
Office	\$510.83
Custodial & Property	\$202.43
Uncategorized	\$403.67
	\$1,681.41

*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 , Bill Wilt, Donna Wilt,
- Staff Sgt John Hiles, Donna Foster,
- Bill Dambeck Carolyn Feather,
- Judy Dambeck,
- Family of Debbie Thomas
- Family of Debra Morgan
- Those serving in our military

**Homewood**

Sylvia Malsatzki

**In their own homes:**

Deborah Manbeck



Feb 1—Matthew 22:34-40, Psalm 19:7-11

Dear Father, thank You for Your selfless love, which gave us Your Son. Help us respond in gratitude by loving You above all things and our neighbors above ourselves. In Your Son's name. Amen.

Feb 2—Luke 2:22-24, Psalm 107:19-22

Dear Lord Jesus, give us hearts to bring little children to You. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Feb 3—Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Psalm 78:5-7

God our Father, imprint Your Word on our hearts through faithful repetition. In the name of Your Son, Jesus. Amen.

Feb 4—2 Timothy 1:3-7, Psalm 71:17-18

Lord Jesus, guide us as we live our faith, and thank You for giving us the opportunity to be an example to others. Amen.

Feb 5—Joshua 1:7-9, Psalm 1:1-3

Lord Jesus, open our hearts to meditate on Your Law day and night. Amen.

Feb 6—Proverbs 6:20-23, Psalm 25:4-10

Dear Father, help us to obey our father's commands and follow our mother's teachings when they honor You. In Your Son's name. Amen.

Feb 7—2 Kings 22:8-20, Psalm 51:11-17

Dear Lord Jesus, we repent for forgetting Your Law. Forgive us and have mercy on us. Amen.

Feb 8—Nehemiah 8:1-3, Psalm 44:1-3

Dear Jesus, give us ears to hear and hearts to understand Your Word. Amen.

Feb 9—Luke 6:43-45, Psalm 1

Our Father, give us hearts that produce good fruit that testifies to Your Son. In His name. Amen.

Feb 10—Matthew 25:31-46, Psalm 110

Gracious God, thank You for giving us hearts to serve You by serving others. In Your Son's name. Amen.

Feb 11—Matthew 5:17-20, Psalm 19:7-11

Dear Christ Jesus, thank You for coming to fulfill the Law on our behalf. Help us look to the Law to guide our lives. In Your name. Amen.

Feb 12—James 4:11-12, Psalm 34:11-14

Dear Lord Jesus, help us say what is helpful rather than what is hurtful when talking about others. In Your name. Amen.

Feb 13—Luke 6:37-42, Psalm 96

Judge of all, keep us from judging others, and thank You for sending Your Son to take our punishment. In His name. Amen.

Feb 14—1 Corinthians 6:1-8, Psalm 37:27-31

Merciful judge, guide us to resolve our disputes with hearts like Jesus and let go of all resentment against those we disagree with. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Feb 15—Matthew 5:21-26, Psalm 4

Dear Jesus, forgive us for being angry with others and help us be at peace with them. In Your name. Amen.

Feb 16—Titus 3:1-2, Psalm 148

Father in heaven, forgive us when we say bad things about government officials. Help us submit to those who have authority, according to Your will. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Feb 17—Romans 13:1-7, Psalm 33:20-22

Omnipotent ruler, Lord of all, help us respect the leaders You have given us. In the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Feb 18—1 Timothy 2:1-4, Psalm 61

Heavenly Father, guide and direct our secular leaders to make faithful decisions that honor You and continue to hold before them the way of Your salvation. In Your Son's name. Amen.

Feb 19—Matthew 22:15-22, Psalm 24

Dear Lord Jesus, forgive us when we resent paying taxes, and remind us that doing so gives You what is owed to You. Amen.

Feb 20—1 Peter 2:13-17, Psalm 18:25-30

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your Son as a servant to die for our sins. Help us respond to such great love by serving others and honoring those who govern our country. In Your Son's name. Amen.

Feb 21—Joshua 24:14-22, Psalm 78:1-8

Gracious Father, help us put You first in our lives. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Feb 22—Acts 4:13-22, Psalm 27

Dear Jesus, give us the courage to testify to Your death and resurrection in the face of opposition. Amen.

Feb 23—Acts 5:27-32, Psalm 103:15-19

Lord God, help us obey You above all. In Your Son's name. Amen.

Feb 24—Colossians 2:13-15, Psalm 64

Dear God, we praise and thank You for winning the war for our souls by sending Your Son to die on a cross to defeat sin, death, and the devil. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Feb 25—Matthew 7:24-27, Psalm 119:145-152

Lord God, keep us safe from the storms of life. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Feb 26—John 8:31-36, Psalm 119:153-160

Beloved Master, thank You for sending Your Son to set us free from sin. In His name. Amen.

Feb 27—1 Corinthians 8:4-13, Psalm 40:4-11

Dear Lord, help us to consider our motives before engaging in conduct that may offend our fellow Christians and to be truly sorry when we put our freedom above their needs. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Feb 28—Romans 3:19-26, Psalm 130

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your greatest gift, Your Son, Jesus. In His name. Amen.

# Your Daily Prayer



# Announcements and Upcoming Events

**IN THE CASE OF A PASTORAL EMERGENCY,**  
In the event of a Pastoral Emergency, please contact Pastor Eli Hess  
Phone: 814-943-3972

The church office email is [stjamesaltoona@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesaltoona@gmail.com) The church's website is [www.stjamesaltoona.org](http://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 FEBRUARY ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS,  
SATURDAY FEBRUARY, 15.***



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

**ST LUKES COMMUNITY LUNCH** Feb 12 12 PM

\* Hosted by St James Lutheran

Held 2nd Wednesday of each month in the  
St James Social Hall

**Sweets and Treats**

**Mar 2 10 AM**

**\* February Sweets and Treats Cancelled**

**Potluck Dinner**

**Mar 16 12 PM**

**Council Meeting**

**Apr 7 5:30 PM**

**Allegheny Chorale Spring Concert**

**Apr 27 3 PM**

***REMINDER: Worship Service will move to the Sunday School Room from January 5th to March 23rd!***



## SWEETS AND TREATS

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF  
EACH MONTH.

SWEETS



TREATS

OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS WILL  
BE: March 2, 2025  
Provided By: Sharon Lightner

\* 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!

### REMINDER:

*February Sweets and Treats is*  
**CANCELED!**

Church  
Council



NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL  
MEETING  
April 7, 2025  
5:30 PM

COMMUNITY  
LUNCH



ST LUKES COMMUNITY LUNCH

February 12 12 PM

- Hosted by St James Lutheran Held 2nd Wednesday of each month in the St James Social Hall

# St. James WELCA Christmas Project



St James WELCA , Christmas Project “We Care for the Human Society”. (Thrivent sponsorship). It project was very successful! Thanks to everyone! The treats will be delivered to the Human Society by Donna and Bill Wilt.



A big thank you goes out to Betty Boslet who submitted a Thrivent grant and used it this month for the St James WELCA Christmas luncheon at the Valley Dairy Restaurant.

Our special guest was Terry Koch, retired Altoona High School principal and treasurer of Bethany Lutheran. Terry spoke of his history of kidney failure and lengthy chemotherapy. Terry was on a long waiting list for kidney transplant. He received a new kidney by a young man who suffered a serious auto accident. Terry has been blessed for 2 years with this new kidney transplant, and is thankful his renewed life. He gives all the credit to our gracious God and faithfully thanks our Lord daily for this wonderful life saving gift.

Everyone in attendance participated in a small gift exchange.

Games were played enjoyed by all.

A beautiful birthday cake given to Peggy Thatcher.

Betty will use the remainder of the unused Thrivent funds to purchase food, treats, litter, toys for the St. James WELCA Christmas Project. Thanks to all who contributed.





Take time to check the new decoration on the bulletin board in the Sunday school room.

New volunteers are needed, to put up a different theme for the bulletin board. More volunteers make small chores easier.





**Potluck Dinner**  
**March 16, 2025**  
**12 PM**



*Allegheny Chorale*  
*Spring Concert*  
*April 27, 2025*  
*3 PM*



# *St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church*

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**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**

*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