



# Kirchenblatt March 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**

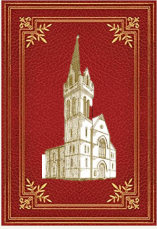
**EMAIL: STJAMESALTOONA@GMAIL.COM**

**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 March 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 season of Lent, we are reminded of our true nature that we are sinners at our core. This sinful nature controls our lives, because we are governed by sin, death and the Devil. Ash Wednesday reminds us that we are dead in our sins and that we will die because of our sins. Lent reminds us that we are sinners and that we need to repent of these sins. Lent also reminds us that this world is filled with sin and evil. Lent brings us to the realization that we are sinners. We therefore have no salvation in ourselves for the Law shows us we are sinners, and our works only show that we fail miserably because we don't do enough good work and what good works that we do are led by self-interest and sin. It reminds me of what Paul said, "Oh, what a wretched man that I am.", because there is nothing within us that can saved us.

Therefore, in Lent we are confronted by what we truly are, condemned because of our sins and that we are facing God's wrath because of this sin. We understand that there is nothing within us that can save us. We are doomed to life eternally condemned to Hell. But Lent leads us to the realization that there is more to this life than just sin, that there is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who came into this world to die for us, so that our sins might be forgiven, and we may have eternal life through His Resurrection. This is the hope that Lent gives us as we look forward to the Easter season and to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

It gives us the hope that we too who were baptized into Christ's Death and Resurrection, that we too will have eternal life with Him because God has chosen us to be children of God. Chosen not because of what we do, but because of the love of God that is in Christ. That we might have our sins forgiven and that we may have eternal life in Heaven. Not because of own doings, but because of Christ's Death on the Cross. A redeeming death that brings us eternal life. This is the message of Lent and the hope that we have in the season of Easter that is to come.

In the season of Lent, I ask you to look into yourself and understand that you are sinful and that you need to repent of our sin. But through the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, we have forgiveness of sins and eternal life in the Kingdom of Heaven. Therefore, I challenge you to believe in Jesus Christ and the grace that comes through His Death and Resurrection, because our every sin is covered, and our sins are no more. We are under the grace of God who loved us so much that he gave His only begotten Son to die for us, so that we shall not perish but have eternal life in Christ Jesus.

God's Blessings in this upcoming Season of Lent,

*Mark Hoover*

*President of Saint James Lutheran Church*

**Contribution & Attendance Summary**

**December 2023**

Contributions \$2,507.00  
Average Weekly Attendance: 10

**December 2024**

Contributions \$2,345.50  
Average Weekly Attendance: 7



**INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY**

**December 1, 2024 December 31, 2024**

**INCOME**

Bank Interest	\$0.00
Contributions	
General	\$2,345.50
Designated	\$0.00
Special	\$30.00
Other Income	\$4,150.00
	\$6,525.50

**EXPENSES**

Pastoral Administration	\$588.72
Worship & Music	\$596.34
Office	\$1,585.69
Custodial & Property	\$1,591.24
Uncategorized	\$0.00
	\$4,361.99

*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



Mar 1—Leviticus 19:1-22, Psalm 65

Dear Jesus, thank You for being our substitute even when we were lost in sin.

Amen.

Mar 2—Revelation 1:12-18, Psalm 110

We praise You, Lord Jesus, for You are almighty. Amen.

Mar 3—Genesis 3:8-17, Psalm 41

Jesus, we praise and thank You for being faithful to Your Father's will, completing His plan of salvation for all of mankind by taking our punishment on the cross. Amen.

Mar 4—Hebrews 10:5-10, Psalm 40

Jesus, thank You for Your obedience to God's will. Amen.

Mar 5—Psalm 51:1-4, Psalm 139:17-24

Lord Jesus, thank You for washing away all my sins. Amen.

Mar 6—Genesis 15, Psalm 98

Thank You for Your faithful love for us, O Lord God Almighty. When we fail, forgive us and lift us up to serve You better. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mar 7—Exodus 12:21-27, Psalm 22:22-31

We thank You, Lord Jesus, for loving us and protecting us. Amen.

Mar 8—Romans 10:8-13, Psalm 37:27-40

Thank You, loving Father, for the gift of our saving faith. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Mar 9—Luke 4:1-13, Psalm 16

Lord God, help me fight temptations and walk closely with You. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Mar 10—John 6:35-40, Psalm 63

Dear Lord Jesus, how can I thank You for loving me enough to go the whole route to the cross to save me? Amen.

Mar 11—Isaiah 35:5-6, Psalm 18:7-19

Jesus, fill my heart and life with Your joy and healing. Amen.

Mar 12—Luke 4:14-30, Psalm 130

O Lord Jesus, when I am hurting inside, I know You understand. Thank You for always being there for me. Amen.

Mar 13—Exodus 12:1-13, Psalm 85

Jesus, thank You for shedding Your powerful blood for me. With Your Spirit, help me live powerfully for You. Amen!

Mar 14—John 19:31-36, Psalm 111

Perfect Lamb of God, Jesus, we praise You. Amen.

Mar 15—Luke 13:31-35, Psalm 20

Lord Jesus, when I see You on the cross, I see the supreme act of love for me. Cover me with Your protecting wings and keep me safe. Amen.

Mar 16—Philippians, Psalm 67

Lord Jesus, thank You for the promise of eternal life with You in paradise. Thank You for paying the price in our place. Amen.

Mar 17—Matthew 26:27-29, Psalm 116

Lord God, thank You for sending Jesus and His life-giving blood for us. In His name. Amen.

Mar 18—John 3:14-18, Psalm 118:22-29

Lord, keep my eyes ever focused on You and Your great sacrifice for me on the cross. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mar 19—Psalm 22:1-2, Psalm 12

Lord Jesus, thank You for never abandoning me. Thank You for hope. Amen.

Mar 20—Psalm 22:7-8, Psalm 14

Lord Jesus, thank You that I can fully rely on Your promise of eternal life with You in heaven. Amen.

Mar 21—Zechariah 9:9-10, Psalm 123

Lord Jesus, come into my life and teach me to be humble as You were. In Your name I pray. Amen.

Mar 22—Ezekiel 33:7-11, Psalm 119:169-176

Lord Jesus, hold me up when I am falling. In Your name. Amen.

Mar 23—Luke 13:1-9, Psalm 103:1-14

Lord Jesus, have mercy upon me. Amen.

Mar 24—Zechariah 12:1-10, Psalm 4

Lord Jesus, I confess my sins for which You suffered and paid the price. Forgive me. Thank You for Your amazing grace. Amen.

Mar 25—Luke 1:26-33, Psalm 125

Come, Lord Jesus, as You promised. Amen.

Mar 26—Psalm 22:14-15, Psalm 109:21-31

Dear Jesus, I thirst for the living water only You can give. Amen.

Mar 27—Psalm 22:16-31, Psalm 54

Jesus, You are the Messiah. Your love for us is so powerful! Lead us to tell others of what You have done for us. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Mar 28—Isaiah 53:6-8, Psalm 13

O Christ Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

Mar 29—2 Corinthians 5:16-21, Psalm 51:10-17

Lord God, thank You for my rebirth. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mar 30—Luke 15:11-24, Psalm 50:7-15

Father, have mercy upon me, a sinner. I need Your love. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mar 31—John 19:28-37, Psalm 119:97-104

Jesus, thank You for Your gift of love and of faith. 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 APRIL ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS,  
SATURDAY MARCH, 15.***



## UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES:

Sweets and Treats	Mar 2 10 AM
ST LUKES COMMUNITY LUNCH	Mar 12 12 PM
* Hosted by St James Lutheran	
Held 2nd Wednesday of each month in the	
St James Social Hall	
Potluck Dinner	Mar 16 12 PM
Easter Flower Order Deadline	Mar 19 12 PM
Palm Sunday	Apr 13
Maundy Thursday Service	Apr 17 7 PM
Good Friday Service	Apr 18 2 PM
Easter Sunday	Apr 20
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.



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!

*Church  
Council*



NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL  
MEETING  
April 7, 2025

5:30 PM

**COMMUNITY  
LUNCH**



**ST LUKES COMMUNITY LUNCH**

**March 12 12 PM**

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



POTLUCK DINNER

**Potluck Dinner**

**March 16, 2025**

**12 PM**



Ash Wednesday Service will be held at **Bethany Lutheran** on March 5, 2025 7 PM

**NO SERVICE AT ST. JAMES**



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



# Holy Week 2025 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.

## **Palm Sunday– April 13<sup>th</sup> 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.



## **Maundy Thursday– April 17th 7:00 PM**

*“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.

## Good Friday– April 18th 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 RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD (EASTER SUNDAY) April 20th 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!



### Easter Flowers

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

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This Donation is made:

IHO: \_\_\_\_\_

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IMO: \_\_\_\_\_

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Choice of Flowers:

- Yellow Tulips 5/6 Bulb (\$12)       Red Tulips 5/6 Bulb (\$12)
- 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 19, 2025

# *St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church*

**1407 Eighth Avenue  
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**814-944-6835**

**[stjamesaltoona@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesaltoona@gmail.com)**

**[www.stjamesaltoona.org](http://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**

*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