



Kirchenblatt April 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 April 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 April, I discovered that we are in the midst of my favorite time of the year. You may think that it's because it is springtime. But it is my favorite time of the year not only because it is spring, but because of the celebration of Easter. During April, we will experience Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter. We will celebrate this time with great joy with the waving of our palms, go through the emotional ups and downs of Holy Week, and then with great joy celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

If the truth is told, we will discover that Holy Week is a chaotic time with a roller-coaster ride of emotions. This is because on Maundy Thursday, we see the institution of communion by Jesus at the Passover meal which we call the Lord's Supper. We experience the Denial of Peter and the Betray of Jesus by Judas Iscariot and ultimately the arrest of Jesus. This is followed by the sadness and grief of Good Friday. Talking about emotional ups and downs.

The disciples must have gone through a great amount of upheaval as they hear of a time when Jesus is going to leave them, a time when He talks about His denial and betrayal by the ones who are closest to Him, and ultimately being killed. We have a time of great joy which is followed by a time of great sorrow. Amid it all this, Jesus is arrested in the middle of the Garden of Gethsemane as He is praying and led away by Judas and those from the temple.

The following day, Jesus is brought to trial and convicted of blasphemy and for being an enemy of the Roman Empire being called the King of the Jews for which He is crucified.

Following His death, the disciples went through a time of grief and great sorrow. But on the third day, Jesus has risen from the dead on the first day of the week. Women come from the tomb to inform the disciples that the tomb is empty, that Jesus is alive and has appeared to Mary Madelyn. This is what we celebrate with great joy as Easter. Jesus has been Resurrected from the dead and has gained victory over Sin, Death, and the Devil.

As we celebrate Easter, please remember that we too will share in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ by simply by believing in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. He is the One who overcame death and has been raised from the dead. He has promised us that because of our belief in Him, that He too will give us forgiveness of sins and eternal life. These are promises that we celebrate in this great season of Easter.

God's Blessings in this upcoming Season of Easter,

Mark Hoover

President of Saint James Lutheran Church



Contribution & Attendance Summary

January 2024

Contributions \$835
Average Weekly Attendance:10

January 2025

Contributions \$196.25
Average Weekly Attendance:8

INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY

January 1, 2025 January 31, 2025

INCOME

Bank Interest	\$0.00
Contributions	
General	\$196.25
Designated	\$0.00
Special	\$
Other Income	\$
	<u>\$196.25</u>

EXPENSES

Pastoral Administration	\$441.48
Worship & Music	\$1,206.74
Office	\$1,017.11
Custodial & Property	\$3,466.41
Uncategorized	\$208.90
	<u>\$6,340.64</u>

KIRCHENBLATT

April Birthdays

	Betty Boslet	4/12
	Judy Dambeck	4/23
	Mark Hoover	4/2
	Steve Lightner	4/20
	Pat McConnell	4/5



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



Apr 1—Exodus 30:22-36, Psalm 45:6-8

Bread of Life, Jesus, remind us to taste and see that the Lord is good! Amen.

Apr 2—1 Peter 3:13-17, Psalm 34:1-3

Patient Lord, keep us looking not to seen things but to the eternal things You love that are unseen. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Apr 3—Matthew 11:25-30, Psalm 62:1-7

What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear! (LSB 770:1). Amen.

Apr 4—Hebrews 10:5-10, Psalm 40

Thank You, good, gracious, and merciful Savior, for being perfectly slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love toward us. In Your name, Jesus. Amen.

Apr 5—Ephesians 6:13-17, Psalm 18:31-35

O Lord, protect us from the evil one's ways with the armor that is our Savior, Jesus. In His name. Amen.

Apr 6—Joel 2:12-14, Psalm 122:1-4

Patient Lord Jesus, help us cherish and love our time in Your house. Amen.

Apr 7—Mark 6:7-13, Psalm 111:1-5

O Great Provider, help me to delight in and trust Your ways. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Apr 8—John 6:1-14, Psalm 146:1-8

Lord, thank You for providing all we need. Lead us to use Your good gifts to Your glory. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Apr 9—Mark 5:22-43, Psalm 90:12-17

Loving Lord, thank You for Your grace and mercy at all times. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Apr 10—James 3:3-10, Psalm 141:1-4

Keep me from saying words that later need recalling; Guard me lest idle speech may from my lips be falling; But when within my place I must and ought to speak, Then to my words give grace lest I offend the weak (LSB 696:3). Amen.

Apr 11—1 Samuel 24:1-12, Psalm 41:11-13

Heavenly Father, who sees the depths of our heart, restore in us a pure heart that glorifies You in all things. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Apr 12—James 1:2-4, Psalm 27:1-6

Thank You, Jesus, for making something beautiful out of wrongs in my life. Amen.

Apr 13—2 Corinthians 5:1-10, Psalm 116:8-15

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee, Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea; Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee, Which wert and art and evermore shalt be (LSB 507:2). Amen.

Apr 14—Numbers 14:18-19, Psalm 37:3-7

God of love, thank You for loving us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Apr 15—Matthew 4:18-22, Psalm 78:1-8

Father, on this Holy Tuesday, remind us to be ever ready to follow You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Apr 16—Matthew 4:1-11, Psalm 36:5-7

Lord Jesus, guide us through both the heights and depths we face. Amen.

Apr 17—Romans 5:6-8, Psalm 31:14-16

Lord God, keep me content that Your timing is always perfect. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Apr 18—1 Corinthians 9:19-23, Psalm 119:137-144

Suffering Savior, this day the way was denied, the truth was denied, and the life was denied. Forgive us for our weaknesses. In Your name we pray, Jesus. Amen.

Apr 19—Lamentations 3:19-24, Psalm 5:1-3

O Lord, keep me content in Your arms daily from dusk until dawn. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Apr 20—Job 14:7-9, Psalm 51:1-12

Resurrected Lord, we ask You to be patient with us as we heed the Holy Spirit's guidance back to Your quenching life. Amen.

Apr 21—Matthew 8:18-22, Psalm 84:1-4

King Jesus, I long for my final move to heaven to be in Your perfect presence permanently. Amen.

Apr 22—Romans 12:9-13, Psalm 119:137-144

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD" (Psalm 19:14). Amen.

Apr 23—John 20:30-31, Psalm 93:1-5

Risen Lord, I glorify Your precious name. I look for Your magnificent return. And I will praise You daily until I see You coming for me. In Your name I pray, Jesus. Amen.

Apr 24—1 Samuel 25:2-35, Psalm 109:1-9

Jesus, make my hands and feet swift to serve others in love. I am engraved on the palms of Your hands—those hands and feet that were pierced for me. Amen.

Apr 25—1 John 2:1-6, Psalm 79:8-9

Salvation unto us has come by God's free grace and favor; Good works cannot avert our doom, they help and save us never. Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone, who did for all the world atone; He is our one Redeemer (LSB 555:1). Amen.

Apr 26—John 15:1-11, Psalm 91:1-11

I triumph still if Thou abide with me! (LSB 878:5). Amen.

Apr 27—Luke 12:22-24, Psalm 104:10-12

O Jesus Christ, we are grateful for our walking-faith days, so we'll greatly cherish our soaring-faith days. Amen.

Apr 28—Titus 3:3-8, Psalm 26:1-7

Baptized into Your name most holy, O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, I claim a place, though weak and lowly, Among Your saints, Your chosen host (LSB 590:1). Amen.

Apr 29—Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43, Psalm 16:5-11

Father, I'm fully persuaded that You will keep me in the faith now and bring heaven to me one glad day! In Jesus' name. Amen.

Apr 30—Romans 7:18-8:2, Psalm 32:5-10

Father, thank You that You "forgave the iniquity of my sin" (Psalm 32:5). In the name of Jesus. 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 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 MAY ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS,
TUESDAY APRIL, 15.***



UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES:

Sweets and Treats

Apr 6 10 AM

Council Meeting

Apr 7 5:30 PM

ST LUKES COMMUNITY LUNCH

Apr 10 12 PM

* Hosted by St James Lutheran

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

Allegheny Chorale Spring Concert Apr 27 3 PM

REMINDER: *Worship Service will move back to the
Sanctuary April 13th!*



SWEETS**TREATS**

SWEETS AND TREATS

**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF
EACH MONTH.**

**OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS WILL
BE: April 6, 2025**

Provided By: Diane Shultz

* 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

April 10 12 PM

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

Kindness

is a Superpower

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 13th 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 12:00 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.

The altar is stripped as we remember Jesus being stripped of his freedom as we hear the words of Psalm 22 preparing us for Good Friday.

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!



Free to the public

**Come to the Music
as we celebrate our**



Allegheny Chorale
~ Anniversary ~

***Sunday, April 27, 2025 at 3pm
St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church
Altoona***

***Tuesday, April 29, 2025 at 7pm
First Presbyterian Church
Tyrone***

Deborah Estright, Director

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

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

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