



# Kirchenblatt May 2025

(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:

Council President	2-3	Prayer List	4	Announcements	8-11
Financials	4	Daily Readings	5-7	Committee List	14
Birthdays	4				

**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 May 2025

Dear Members of St. James:

Grace, mercy and peace from God, our Father, and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As we begin the time after the Easter celebration, the time when we start to think about Spring. Spring is a symbol of rebirth where we move from the Winter season into the season of Spring which is a time of renewal which we see all around us. After Easter, we enter the seven-week period of the Easter season. During this Easter season, we do not talk about new birth, but we talked about the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. We looked at the Easter season as the time when Jesus Christ rose from the dead. But we must remember that because of Christ's Death on the Cross and His Resurrection, that Christ overcame sin, death, and the devil. The biggest of those things is His Victory over Death.

Over the next few weeks, we will hear a lot of stories about Jesus' Resurrection and Jesus' activities after His death. We will hear of times when Jesus is alive after His death, His coming to visiting His disciples, and Him giving us encouragement that there is life after death. Jesus tells us that death is not the end, but only the beginning of a new life, a new life in the Kingdom of God in Heaven.

Jesus has told us that if we are baptized into His Death, that we are also baptized into His Resurrection and have eternal life. In His Resurrection, we will receive a body just like His, a new spiritual body that is quite different from our earthly bodies that suffer pain, get old, and die. In the Resurrection, we will be given a new body that is Eternal that does not experience pain, never gets old, and never suffers death. Through Jesus Christ, we are promised a new life in Him. A life where we will be with Him for all Eternity, because He has gone to prepare a place for us. So that wherever He is, we will also be with Him for all Eternity in the Kingdom of God where Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior, and God is our Father. This is the promise of Jesus Christ's Resurrection and the eternal life that we are given through Jesus Christ who loved us so much that He was willing to give up His life on this earth to die for our sins on a Cross. He was then raised from the dead, so that we might have Eternal life in Him. This is truly a gift that God has given us through His Son Jesus Christ through our faith in God Grace. This is the Blessings that we have received through the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

May God truly bless you in this Season of Spring and the Season of Easter,

*Mark Hoover*

*President of Saint James Lutheran Church*

**May Birthdays**

<b>Donna Foster</b>	<b>5/22</b>
<b>Donna Wilt</b>	<b>5/24</b>

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## February 1, 2025 February 28, 2025

Bank Interest	\$0.00
Contributions	
General	\$494.00
Designated	\$0.00
Special	\$0.00
Other Income	\$13,500.00
	<hr/>
	\$13,994.00
 <b>EXPENSES</b>	
Pastoral Administration	\$767.72
Worship & Music	\$989.46
Office	\$2,570.62
Custodial & Property	\$14,949.98
Uncategorized	\$111.73
	<hr/>
	\$19,389.51

## 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



May 1—Matthew 6:25-34, Psalm 8

Thank You, Lord Jesus, for providing for us, just as You do for every living thing. Help us to remember that Your care and attention are unceasing in Your great love for Your creation. Amen.

May 2—1 Kings 19:14-21, Psalm 4

Thank You, heavenly Father, for never leaving us alone. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

May 3—Genesis 31:1-21, Psalm 114

Dearest Lord Jesus, thank You for the living water You provide to all who believe in You. Amen.

May 4—Proverbs 6:1-15, Psalm 119:33-40

Heavenly Father, bless our daily paths, that they may point others to faith in You. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

May 5—Isaiah 65:17-25, Psalm 29

Dear Lord, keep us faithful on earth as we await new heavens and a new earth. In Jesus' name. Amen.

May 6—Psalm 118, Psalm 136

Holy Spirit, grant us grace and faith to give thanks to God our Father in the good times and the bad. In Jesus' name. Amen.

May 7—Romans 8:28-39, Psalm 78:1-8

Lord God, we cannot thank You enough for Your everlasting love for us and for Your gift of salvation. Work faith in our hearts to receive this gift and hold on to You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

May 8—Ruth 1; 4:13-17, Psalm 126

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your perfect timing in our lives. Help us to wait and trust in Your plans. In Jesus' name. Amen.

May 9—1 Corinthians 1:18-31, Psalm 24

Dear Lord, please use each one of us to spread Your love. Amen.

May 10—Isaiah 40:1-26, Psalm 103

Heavenly Father, give us faith to believe that Your Word stands forever. Focus our hearts and minds on that truth as we trust in You. Amen.

May 11—Acts 2:1-13, Psalm 135:1-7

Father, continue to work in us through Your Spirit. We pray in the name of Your Son, Jesus. Amen.

May 12—Philippians 3:1-4: 1, Psalm 26

Lord Jesus, Your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in Your faithfulness. Amen.

May 13—Philippians 1:12-18, Psalm 27

O Lord, as we wait for You, let us be strong, and let our hearts take courage, knowing You have worked all things for our good. In Jesus' name. Amen.

May 14—Nehemiah 8:1-12, Psalm 47

Heavenly Father, help us to always remember that the joy of the Lord is our strength. In Jesus' name. Amen.

May 15—Ephesians 3:7-21, Psalm 148

Dear Lord, please help us to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge. Amen.

May 16—Psalm 18:25-36, Psalm 3

Dearest Father, thank You for holding us in Your hands. Support us with Your strength and gentleness. In Jesus' name. Amen.

May 17—Revelation 22, Psalm 19

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your Son to bring us into Your glorious, eternal paradise. In His name we pray. Amen.

May 18—1 Samuel 17:45-50, Psalm 20

Lord God, may we remember to turn to You first for help. Grant us trust in Your victory through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

May 19—1 Samuel 2:1-10, Psalm 62

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee (LSB 761). Amen.

May 20—1 Kings 18:20-46, Psalm 23

Father, strengthen our faith as we wait for our home in heaven. In Jesus' name. Amen.

May 21—1 Thessalonians 1, Psalm 119:1-16

Lord God, "let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, . . . encouraging one another, and all the more as [we] see the Day drawing near" (Hebrews 10:24-25).

May 22—Hebrews 4:1 4-5:10, Psalm 84

Dear Lord, thank You for Your love, demonstrated through the sacrifice of Your Son. Let us approach Your throne with confidence to find mercy and grace. In Jesus' name. Amen.

May 23—Matthew 13:18-35, Psalm 1

Dear God, grant us the ability to sow the seed of Your Word in the heart of everyone we meet. In Jesus' name. Amen.

May 24—Ecclesiastes 3:1-15, Psalm 31

Heavenly Father, we praise and thank You that our times are in Your hands. In Jesus' name. Amen.

May 25—1 Thessalonians 5:12-28, Psalm 138

Lord God, enable us to rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances. Amen.

May 26—Genesis 8:1-19, Psalm 104:1-18

Dear God, You are in control of our lives. Please fill us with Your hope as we wait for Your salvation. Amen.

May 27—Exodus 13:17-22, Psalm 16

Thank You, Father, for always being with us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

May 28—Exodus 14:5-31, Psalm 91

Heavenly Father, remind us to trust in You even when the clouds are thick around us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

May 29—Acts 1:1-11, Psalm 25

Strengthen us, Lord, to continue Your work through the Spirit. Through the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

May 30—Proverbs 24:1-14, Psalm 111

Dear Lord, lead us to seek You as the fount of all wisdom for our lives. Amen.

May 31—Luke 1:39-56, Psalm 71

Father, thank You for working in our lives. May we respond to You with joy and thanksgiving. In the name of Your Son, 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](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 JUNE ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS,  
THURSDAY MAY, 15.***





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

**Sweets and Treats**

**May 4 10 AM**

**ST LUKES COMMUNITY LUNCH**

**May 14 12 PM**

**\* Hosted by St James Lutheran**

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

**Church Picnic**

**Jun 22 11 AM**

**\*Highland Park Pavillion #1**



## SWEETS AND TREATS

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF  
EACH MONTH.



OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS WILL  
BE: May 4, 2025  
Provided By: Donna and Bill Wilt

\* 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!



The next Potluck Dinner is  
May 18, 2025 (Still TBD)  
12PM



NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL  
MEETING  
September 9, 2025  
5:30 PM



## ST LUKES COMMUNITY LUNCH

May 14th 12 PM

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

## **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 22, 2025 at Highland Park, Pavilion #1



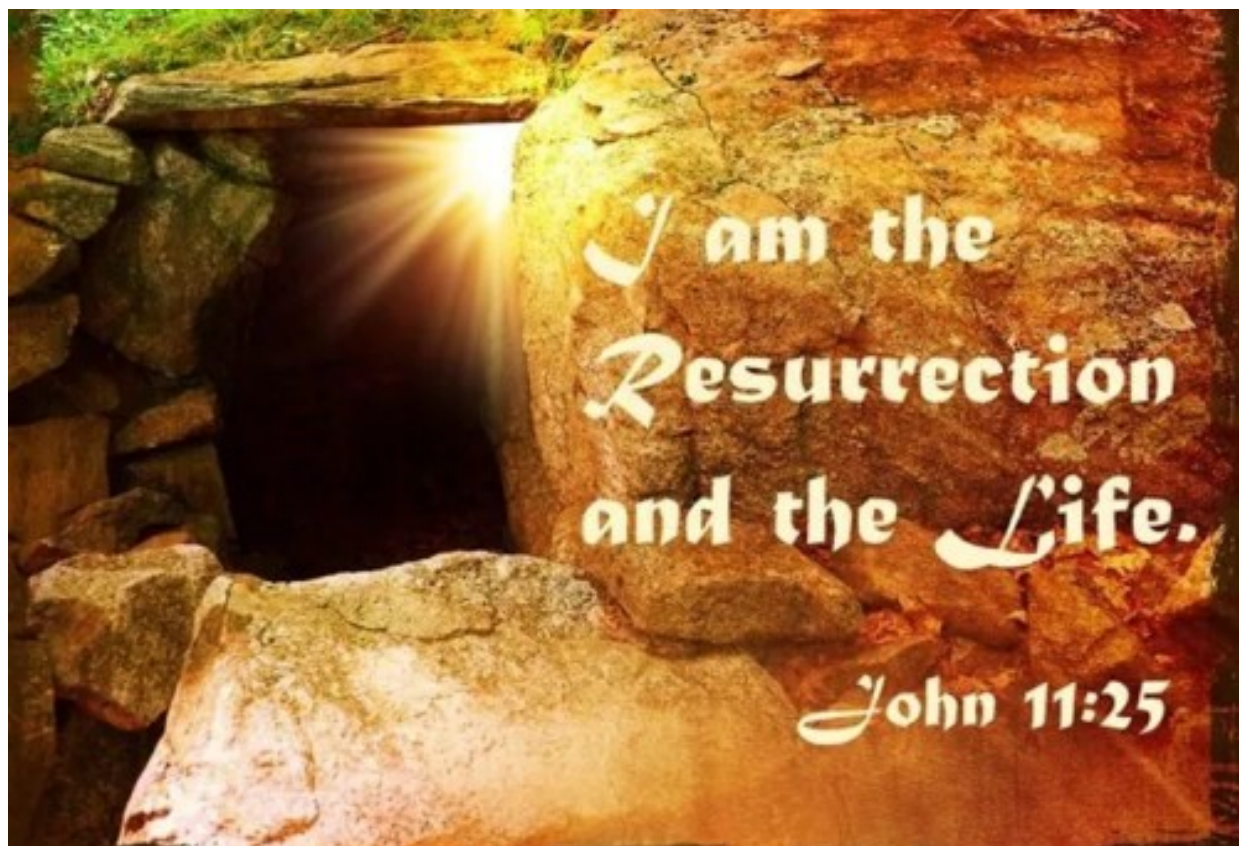
Whatever You Would  
That Others Do To You,  
Do Also To Them

Matthew 7:12

Knowing-Jesus.com

**“Be kind, for  
everyone you  
meet is fighting a  
battle you know  
nothing about.”**







# *St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church*

**1407 Eighth Avenue  
Altoona, PA 16602**

**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