



**St. James Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
September 28, 2025  
16th Sunday  
after Pentecost**

**Worship every Sunday  
10:45 AM**

**Welcome**

***We welcome all visitors who come to worship with us today.  
We are delighted that you have come to share in the prayer  
and praise of our Lord and invite you to return and add your  
voice to ours in holy celebration. If you have a special need or  
prayer write it on the prayer card in the pew rack and place it  
in the offering plate. Before you leave us today, we ask that  
you please sign our guest book.***

**Pulpit Supply: Jay Buchanan  
Church Organist/Choir Director: Patricia McConnell  
Administrative Assistant: Tim Surkovich**

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**St. James Mission Statement: To make disciples of Jesus Christ through Word and Sacrament by the Holy Spirit.**

Announcements: If you cannot read the hymns, you can turn to the hymn in the red ELW hymnal in the pew racks.

Prelude: Sing To The Lord Of Harvest arr. Dennis Eliot  
(We take this time to silently prepare our hearts and minds for worship)

PLEASE STAND

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*An extended silence may be kept.*

Merciful God,

**We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, and Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

***We Gather***

\*GATHERING SONG: Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

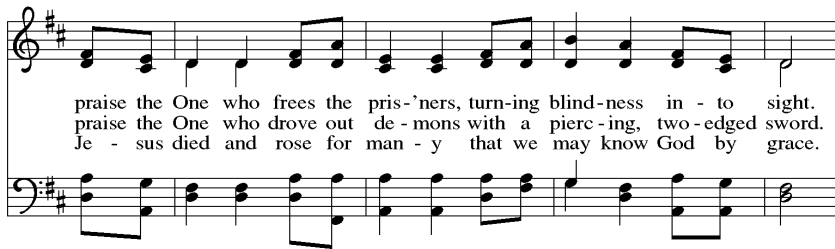
ELW 843

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## Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



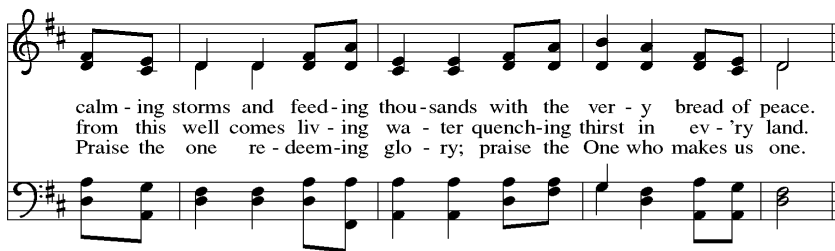
1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib-er-at-ing light;  
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil-dren with a strong yet gen-tle word;  
3 Praise the one true love in-car-nate: Christ, who suf-fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris-'ners, turn-ing blind-ness in-to sight.  
praise the One who drove out de-mons with a pierc-ing, two-edged sword.  
Je-sus died and rose for man-y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos-pel, heal-ing ev-'ry dread dis-ease,  
Praise the One who brings cool wa-ter to the des-ert's burn-ing sand;  
Let us sing for joy and glad-ness, see-ing what our God has done.



calm-ing storms and feed-ing thou-sands with the ver-y bread of peace.  
from this well comes liv-ing wa-ter quench-ing thirst in ev-'ry land.  
Praise the one re-deem-ing glo-ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

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**\*GREETING:**

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** And also with you.

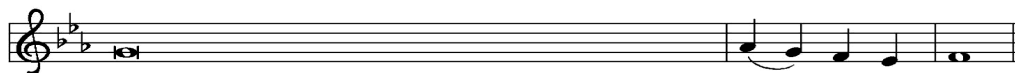
# KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



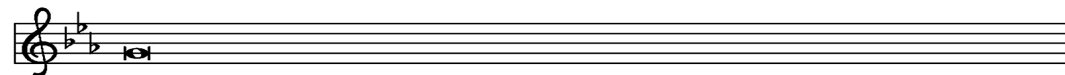
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



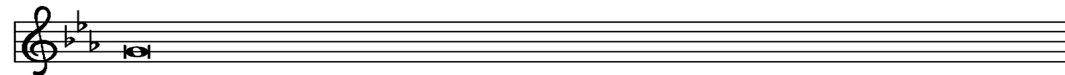
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

# Glory to God

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

P: Let us pray.

**O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

***We Listen to the Word***

**First Reading:**

**Amos 6:1a, 4-7**

A reading from Amos.

<sup>1a</sup> Woe to those who are at ease in Zion and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria. <sup>4</sup> Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory and lounge on their couches and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the stall, <sup>5</sup> who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp and like David improvise on instruments of music, <sup>6</sup> who drink wine from bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph! <sup>7</sup> Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile, and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

**Psalm 146**

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

<sup>2</sup> **I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

<sup>3</sup> Put not your trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there is no help.

<sup>4</sup> **When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish.**

<sup>5</sup> Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the LORD their God;

<sup>6</sup> **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;**

<sup>7</sup> who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.

**<sup>8</sup> The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**

**<sup>9</sup> The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.**

**<sup>10</sup> The LORD shall reign forever,,your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

**SOLO:**

**Now Thank We All Our God**

**Bob Hench**

**Second Reading:**

**1 Timothy 6:6-19**

A reading from 1 Timothy:

<sup>6</sup> Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment,  
<sup>7</sup> for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it, <sup>8</sup> but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. <sup>9</sup> But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

<sup>11</sup> But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. <sup>12</sup> Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. <sup>13</sup> In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you <sup>14</sup> to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup> which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. <sup>16</sup> It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

<sup>17</sup> As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. <sup>18</sup> They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, <sup>19</sup> thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



**\*GOSPEL:**

**Luke 16:19-31**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.



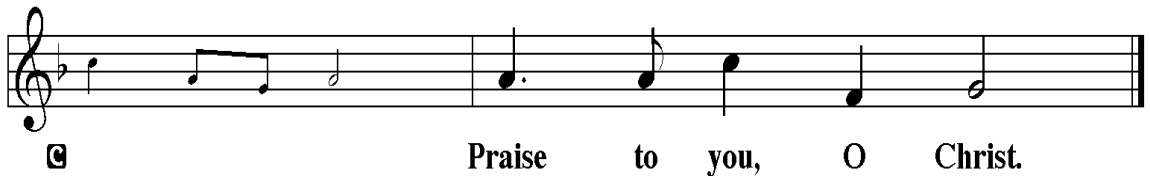
[Jesus said:] <sup>19</sup> “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. <sup>20</sup> And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, <sup>21</sup> who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. <sup>22</sup> The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried.



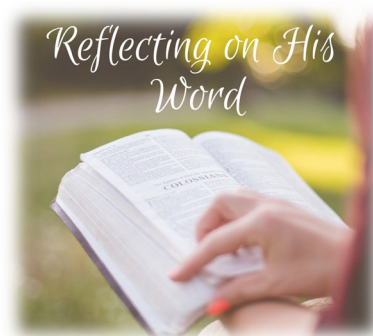
<sup>23</sup> In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. <sup>24</sup> He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.'

<sup>25</sup> But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. <sup>26</sup> Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' <sup>27</sup> He said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house <sup>28</sup> for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' <sup>29</sup> Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' <sup>30</sup> He said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' <sup>31</sup> He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.' "

## **The Gospel of the Lord.**



Sermon



## *We Respond to the Word*

\*Hymn of the Day:

ELW 863

### My God, How Wonderful Thou Art

1 My God, how won-der - ful thou art, thy maj - es - ty how bright!  
2 How won-der - ful, how beau - ti - ful the sight of thee must be—  
3 No earth - ly fa - ther loves like thee; no moth - er, e'er so mild,  
4 Yet I may love thee too, O Lord, al - might - y as thou art,  
5 My God, how won-der - ful thou art, thou ev - er - last - ing friend!

How beau - ti - ful thy mer - cy seat in depths of burn-ing light!  
thine end - less wis - dom, bound-less pow'r, and awe-some pu - ri - ty!  
bears and for - bears as thou hast done with me, thy sin - ful child.  
for thou hast stooped to ask of me the love of my poor heart.  
On thee I stay my trust - ing heart till faith in vi - sion end.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863

Music: DUNDEE, *Psalter*, Edinburgh, 1615

## **\*Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **\*Sharing of the Peace**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** **And also with you.**

## ***We Offer Our Gifts***

### **\*Offering Prayer:**

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts; ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the One who gave Himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church, that it would remain faithful to the gospel, always striving to serve the needs of those who are oppressed and rejecting the complacency that comes from wealth. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for creation, that the nations work together to protect and restore the earth, preserving the beauty of the planet for future generations and honoring the gift of your creation. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for those in positions of authority, that they govern with justice and compassion, recognizing the dignity of all people and working to promote peace and prosperity for all. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for people in any need (*especially*). Give them your assurance and courage when the path forward is not clear. Liberate us from all that binds us, lift us up when we are bowed down, and show us your love. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation, that we would be strengthened to build a world where all can thrive. Incite us to advocate for fair wages and just policies, and guide us in building a community of mutual support. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We remember in thanksgiving the faithful departed. Inspire us by their example to love and serve our neighbors, and bring us to eternal life. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

**Amen.**

Lord remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

\*The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

***We Are Sent***

\*Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

\*Sending Song:  
**NEXT PAGE**

You Servants of God

ELW 825

\*Dismissal

**P:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

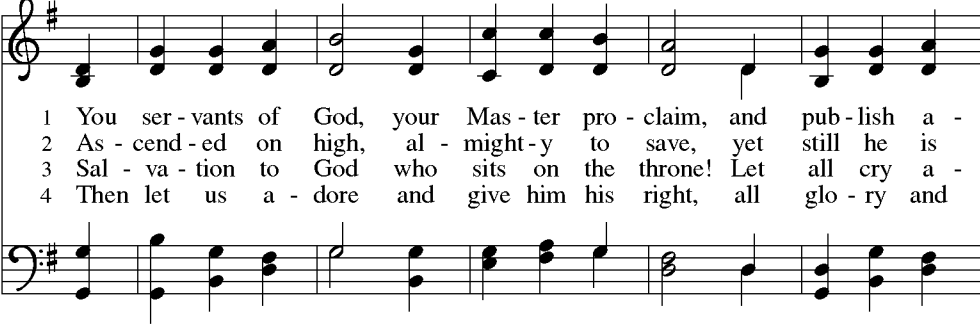
**C: Thanks be to God!**

Recessional:

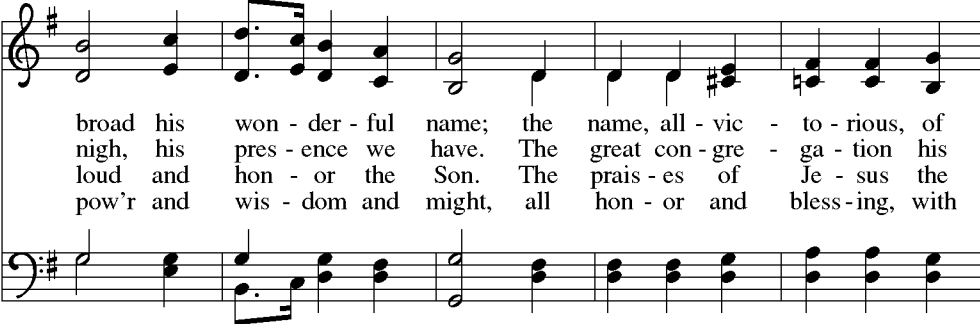
Echo Voluntary

John Stanley

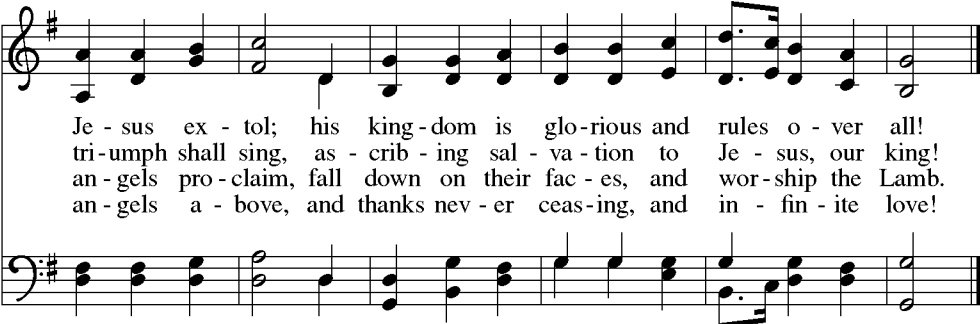
## You Servants of God



1 You ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim, and pub - lish a -  
2 As - cend - ed on high, al - might - y to save, yet still he is  
3 Sal - va - tion to God who sits on the throne! Let all cry a -  
4 Then let us a - dore and give him his right, all glo - ry and



broad his won - der - ful name; the name, all - vic - to - rious, of  
nigh, his pres - ence we have. The great con - gre - ga - tion his  
loud and hon - or the Son. The prais - es of Je - sus the  
pow'r and wis - dom and might, all hon - or and bless - ing, with



Je - sus ex - tol; his king - dom is glo - rious and rules o - ver all!  
tri - umph shall sing, as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus, our king!  
an - gels pro - claim, fall down on their fac - es, and wor - ship the Lamb.  
an - gels a - bove, and thanks nev - er ceas - ing, and in - fin - ite love!

# CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**IN THE CASE OF A PASTORAL EMERGENCY,**  
In the event of a Pastoral Emergency, please contact Pastor Eli Hess  
Work: 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)  
On Facebook—St. James Lutheran Church—Altoona, PA



## **Our Prayer List:**

Tim Surkovich	Jeff Bickel	Bill Wilt	Bob Holsinger Sr
Staff Sgt John Hiles	Donna Foster	Donna Wilt	Bob Holsinger
Carolyn Feather	Bill Dambeck	Judy Dambeck	Evelyn Holsinger
The soul and family of Debbie Thomas		The soul and family of Debra Morgan	
The soul of Marian "Toots" Holsinger		The soul of Deborah Manbeck	
The soul of Sylvia Malsatzki			

(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.)

Those serving in our military.



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

**Octoberfest TODAY**  
**Poinsettia Order Deadline**  
**Sweets and Treats**  
**St Luke's Community Lunch**  
**Council Meeting**  
**Allegheny Chorale Concert**

**Sep 28 12 PM**  
**Oct 1 12 PM**  
**Oct 5 10 AM**  
**Oct 8 12 PM**  
**Oct 14 5:30 PM**  
**Dec 7 3 PM**



### **NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

**October 14, 2025**

**5:30 PM**







## **SWEETS AND TREATS**

**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF  
EACH MONTH.**

**OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS WILL**

**BE: October 5, 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!

*Please consider volunteering and signing up to sponsor Sweets and Treats. For this year we still need volunteers for November and December.*



### **ST LUKES COMMUNITY LUNCH**

**October 8th 12 PM**

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



***TODAY September 28, 2025***

**Dinner will be served following the Worship Service.  
Dinner to include Sauerkraut, Pork, Mashed Potatoes, Kneadles  
(German Bread Dumplings) with Gravy, Hot German Potato  
Salad, Hot Dogs & Rolls, applesauce and drinks.**

**We are asking members to bring a side dish, vegetable or dessert.**

***Hosted By: Robin and John Kessler***





## Christmas Poinsettias

Bless our Sanctuary and your home this Christmas with a beautiful red poinsettia! For each \$11.50 you contribute to the St. James Flower Fund, a flower will be placed in the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve and will be available for you to take with you following our Christmas Eve Service. If you would rather donate the flower for a shut-or or friend of St. James, you may indicate that choice on this order form.

Please complete the form and return it to the church. **The deadline for poinsettia orders and payments is Sunday, October 1, 2025.** Thank you for your generosity in this endeavor!

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(as you wish it to appear in the bulletin)

This donation is made:

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Or

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Contribution: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Christmas Poinsettias: \_\_\_\_\_

Envelope Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one:

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I do want to take the poinsettia (s) home with me.

\_\_\_\_\_ No. I don't want to take the poinsettia (s). I would like them to be given to a shut in or friend of St. James

# *St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church*

**1407 Eighth Avenue  
Altoona, PA 16602**

**814-944-6835**

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



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.