



Kirchenblatt October 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

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MISSION STATEMENT:

**TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST THROUGH WORD AND
SACRAMENT BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.**



FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S DESK October 2025

Dear Members of St. James:

Grace, mercy and peace from God, our Father, and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As we enter the month of October, I'm reminded that this is the 208th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation in which Dr. Martin Luther nailed to the door of Wittenberg Castle Church the 95 Theses on October 31, 1517. Luther's intentions was not to bring about a revolution within the Church, but his intent was simply to have an academic discussion among his colleagues about theology that was being propagated within the Catholic Church. He wanted to bring attention to the fact that salvation was not something to be earned through good works, but God's grace was a free gift given by God through the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. These 95 theses brought about the Lutheran Reformation which involved several theological changes including the reduction of the number of sacraments from 7 down to only two sacraments namely Baptism and Communion. One of the greatest things that came out of the Reformation was the theology of "Grace Alone, Faith Alone, and Scripture Alone." Scripture Alone means that we can depend on and explain everything related to theology through the Scriptures, because Scripture is the only authority and anything else is a lie. Faith Alone means that we believe in the Salvation that comes to us through God's Grace. It is this Faith in Christ that brings us salvation and eternal life, without this Faith in Jesus Christ we are lost. Grace Alone tells us that we are saved by grace not by good works that we do or by earning our salvation, but God's Salvation comes to us through Grace which is a free gift that we do not deserve.

Another part of Luther's theology is the idea of the "Bondage of the Will." Luther was expressing that we are by our nature, sinful; therefore, we will always perform evil works and deeds. Simply because it's our nature. We do not, by our own power, have the ability to do God's Will because of our sin. The only way that we can be a good Christian is by the intervention of the Holy Spirit in our lives and that through this Holy Spirit we have the ability to do God's Will and are able to do good works. Therefore, we are not able on our own to truly believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the Savior of our souls. This knowledge only comes through the power of the Holy Spirit to reveal to us that Christ is the only way to God's salvation. For Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Light and no one can come unto the Father except through Jesus Christ.

Another Lutheran theology is the "Theology of the Cross" which teaches us that God sees us through the Cross through the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The "Theology of the Cross" is what gets us our salvation. God's grace in the Death of Jesus Christ on the Cross allows us to be saved. Because by our own abilities, we would fail, and salvation would never be ours. Jesus is the only way to God's salvation through His Death and Resurrection.

As we go through this month of October, let's remember the Reformation and all that Martin Luther has given to us through his Lutheran theology. Because of his deep commitment to Christ, he has revealed to us, the importance of Jesus Christ in our lives and that Jesus is the Way unto our Salvation through His Death and Resurrection. Praise be unto Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

I pray that God may truly bless you with the grace that Jesus Christ won for us on the Cross and may we celebrate the Reformation of the Church and the Reformation of our lives through Jesus Christ,

Mark Hoover

President of Saint James Lutheran Church

October Birthdays

Paulette Fredrick	10/12
Mike Savino	10/26

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

INCOME	
Bank Interest	\$0.00
Contributions	
General	\$1,185.00
Designated	\$0.00
Special	\$75.00
Other Income	\$4,000.00
	<hr/>
	\$5,260.00
EXPENSES	
Pastoral Administration	\$453.72
Worship & Music	\$617.74
Office	\$1,357.72
Custodial & Property	\$846.28
Uncategorized	\$0.00
	<hr/>
	\$3,275.46

LORD hear our prayers

Oct 1—Luke 12:22-34, Psalm 130

Dear heavenly Father, we thank You for providing for all our needs. We often worry about many things in life; please give us peace and comfort knowing we are Yours. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Oct 2—Matthew 7:1-12, Psalm 2:1-8

Heavenly Father, You know what we need more than we understand. Thank You for giving us good gifts every day, but especially we thank You for giving us Your Son to die on the cross to pay for our sins. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Oct 3—Deuteronomy 4:15-31, Psalm 119:9-16

Dear God, thank You for providing us with a way to overcome false idols in our lives. Guide us today and always. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Oct 4—Matthew 8:1-17, Psalm 80

Heavenly Father, Your will is good and perfect. Help us to find comfort in this. We look forward to the Last Day, when all will be made well. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Oct 5—Mark 4:35-41, Psalm 86:1-10

Dear Father, thank You for sending Your Son to care for Your people and bring us peace in times of trouble. In His name we pray. Amen.

Oct 6—Matthew 9:1-17, Psalm 97

Dear Father in heaven, we are thankful You provided the Great Physician, Jesus, who on the cross paid for the cure for our sins that we might be well. In His name we pray. Amen.

Oct 7—Matthew 9:32-38, Psalm 121

Dear God, You are the one who waters the seeds that grow into faithful members of Your kingdom; please be with us as we share the Good News with those who have not yet heard. In Jesus' precious name. Amen.

Oct 8—Matthew 10:1-23, Psalm 141

Dear Father in heaven, what a blessing it is that You have provided us sheep with the Good Shepherd to protect us from the wolves that are out to devour us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Oct 9—Genesis 17:1-14, Psalm 103:1-10

The whole triumphant host give thanks to God on high. / "Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!" they ever cry. / Hail, Abr'ham's God and mine! I join the heav'nly lays: / All might and majesty are Thine and endless praise! (LSB 798:9). Amen.

Oct 10—Matthew 11:1-19, Psalm 23

Dear Father in heaven, we thank You for faithful messengers like John the Baptist who boldly proclaimed the coming Savior. We thank You for the many blessings You have given us, especially the Lamb who takes away our sins. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Oct 11—Matthew 11:1-19, Psalm 23

In Baptism we now put on Christ—our shame is fully covered / With all that He once sacrificed and freely for us suffered. / For here the flood of His own blood / Now makes us holy, right, and good / Before our heav'nly Father (LSB 596:4). Amen.

Oct 12—Matthew 12:1-14, Psalm 119:97-104

Dear Father, help us to keep the Sabbath holy. We thank You that You have provided a day of rest to be in Your Word and to hear more about Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Oct 13—Matthew 12:22-37, Psalm 111

Dear heavenly Father, what wonderful things come from Your goodness. Use us to produce more good. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Oct 14—Matthew 12:38-42, Psalm 114

Our Father in heaven, You have sent us the only sign we need. You have blessed us beyond measure. In Jesus' precious name. Amen.

Oct 15—Matthew 13:1-23, Psalm 119:33-40

Dear Father, You provide the means for us to be good soil. Keep us in Your Word so we can produce good fruit for Your kingdom on earth. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Oct 16—Matthew 13:24-33, Psalm 37:3-11

Dear Father in heaven, thank You for being patient. We look forward to the day when we are gathered into Your house and will spend eternity in the presence of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Oct 17—Matthew 13:53-58, Psalm 38

Dear Father, You have blessed us by sending Your only Son to die on the cross; help our unbelief. Let us seek only Jesus. In His name we pray. Amen.

Oct 18—Luke 1:1-17, Psalm 75

Dear Father in heaven, Your will is best, and we thank You that You gave guidance and inspiration to men like Luke to preserve the Good News about You sending Your Son to die on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Oct 19—Matthew 14:22-33, Psalm 80:14-19

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way; / When sorrows, like sea billows, roll; / Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, / It is well, it is well with my soul (LSB 763:1). Amen.

Oct 20—Matthew 15:10-20, Psalm 138

Dear heavenly Father, if it were up to us, we would be lost. Thank You for sending Your Son to save us and make us clean through His death and resurrection. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Oct 21—Matthew 15:21-31, Psalm 142

For You are the Father's Son / Who in flesh the vict'ry won. / By Your mighty
pow'r make whole / All our ills of flesh and soul (LSB 332:6). Amen.

Oct 22—Matthew 16:5-12, Psalm 62

Heavenly Father, protect us from the leaven of false teachings. Guide us daily. In
Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Oct 23—James 1:1-12, Psalm 107:10-16

Heavenly Father, Your promises never change, and we thank You that You remain
steadfast with us during times of trials. Be with us and keep us strong when we are
struggling. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Oct 24—Matthew 17:1-13, Psalm 99

O Father, with the eternal Son / And Holy Spirit ever one, / We pray Thee, bring
us by Thy grace / To see Thy glory face to face (LSB 413:5). Amen.

Oct 25—1 Corinthians 1:26-31, Psalm 1

Dear heavenly Father, strengthen us to become faithful servants who boast in
Christ, just as Dorcas, Lydia, and Phoebe. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Oct 26—Matthew 18:7-14, Psalm 12

Dear Father in heaven, thank You for sending Your only Son to save the lost.
Gather to Yourself all those who have strayed from the fold. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Oct 27—Matthew 18:21-35, Psalm 20

Dear heavenly Father, You sent Your Son to die on the cross and pay for our sins.
You have forgiven us with no limit. Move us to forgive in the same manner. In Jesus' name.
Amen.

Oct 28—Matthew 19:13-15, Psalm 127

Shepherd of tender youth, / Guiding in love and truth / Through devious ways; /
Christ, our triumphant king, / We come Your name to sing / And here our children bring /
To join Your praise (LSB 864:1). Amen.

Oct 29—Matthew 19:16-30, Psalm 56

Dear Father in heaven, on our own, we cannot inherit eternal life. We thank You
that You sent Your only Son to pay the price. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Oct 30—Matthew 20:1-16, Psalm 90:7-17

Heavenly Father, use us to further Your kingdom. Thank You for sending Your Son
to die on the cross and rise so we may inherit eternal life. In His name we pray. Amen.

Oct 31—Romans 3:19-28, Psalm 46

Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word; / Curb those who by deceit or sword /
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son / And bring to naught all He has done (LSB
655:1). Amen.

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 NOVEMBER ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS,
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER, 15.***



UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES:

Poinsettia Order Deadline
Sweets and Treats
St Luke's Community Lunch
Council Meeting
Potluck Dinner
Allegheny Chorale Concert

Oct 1 12 PM
Oct 5 10 AM
Oct 8 12 PM
Oct 14 5:30 PM
Oct 26 12 PM
Dec 7 3 PM





SWEETS AND TREATS

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF
EACH MONTH.

OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS WILL
BE: October 5, 2025
Provided By: Sharon Lighthner

* 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!

Thank you!

*Thank You to Diane Shultz for providing the
September Sweets and Treats.*

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



NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

October 14, 2025

5:30 PM

COMMUNITY LUNCH



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



POTLUCK DINNER

The next Potluck Dinner is

October 26, 2025

12 PM

The Allegheny Chorale presents their 41st Season Christmas Concert



St. James Lutheran Church

December 7, 2025

3PM



We ask the congregation to please contribute cookies for the social after the concert. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex.

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