



Kirchenblatt September 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 September 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 September, we are faced with the holiday of Labor Day which speaks of both labor and rest. Labor Day is not simply a holiday of rest where we take a break from the work that we do in this world. But it is a time that speaks to us of both rest and labor in our spiritual lives.

When I think of rest, I am reminded of the Genesis story of Creation where God created the Heavens and the Earth in six days and on the seventh day He rested. This is where we get the term the Sabbath day. So, as we think about Labor Day, we need to realize that rest is something that is very important. Not only do we rest in our daily physical lives in this world, but also is a time of rest in our spiritual lives. We need time to rest and to reflect on what God has blessed us with, and without rest we will never be able to appreciate all the things that God has blessed us with in our lives. So, in this time of Labor Day and throughout this month, we need to reflect on all the things that God has blessed us with and to take a moment to be thankful in our rest for all that God has given us and how God has blessed us.

As we reflect on the labors of our works, remember that our lives are filled with work because the Earth has been cursed because of Adam' and Eve's sin and we must labor for all that we received from the Earth. It also reminds me that God calls us to labor for our brothers and sisters. We must be there to help them in their times of need, so we must always remember to be mindful of those around us and those of our brothers and sisters in the congregation who need our help.

It could be so meaningful to provide a meal during the times of death or illness, or being able to just to simply give a helping hand for a ride to the store or doctor's office, or a listening ear to those who feel lonely or afraid. I'm also reminded that we do not need to work for our salvation. Our salvation is given to us as a free gift.

We don't need to work for it, because we receive our salvation through the Death of Jesus Christ on the Cross. Christ's work on the Cross gives us our salvation, and our personal work within this world is self-righteous works that only lead to death and mean nothing. You do not have to work for our salvation, because salvation comes to us through the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Jesus so loved us that He gave up His life on the Cross for us so that we might be blessed by God with forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Jesus has provided the work so in this month of September let us remember that Christ has already done the work for us. We are the recipients of the Christ's work which is God's salvation given to us through the Cross of Christ. We need not do any additional work, because the work has been done through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Therefore, rest in the confidence of our faith in Jesus Christ.

I pray that God may truly bless you with the grace that Jesus Christ won for us on the Cross and may your Fall be a time of spiritual rest for you,

Mark Hoover

President of Saint James Lutheran Church

September Birthdays

William Dambeck	9/9
Robert Holsinger	9/5
Brad Stehle	9/18
William Wilt	9/15

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

LORD hear our prayers

Sep 1—Genesis 2:4-25, Psalm 8

God, help me walk in the good works You have prepared for me, trusting in You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 2—Ephesians 6:10-20, Psalm 44

Almighty God, help me and all Your saints stand firm against the evil one by Your strength and protection. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 3—Genesis 22:1-18, Psalm 105:1-15

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your faithfulness from generation to generation! In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 4—Matthew 5:21-26, Psalm 15

Merciful God, help me forgive my brothers and sisters and seek their forgiveness. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 5—John 1:43-51, Psalm 139:1-18

Gracious Lord, thank You for those who shared Your Word with me so that I would come to believe. Help me by Your Spirit to testify of Your saving love to those around me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 6—Titus 3:1-11, Psalm 21

Gracious Lord, grant wisdom to all in authority. Help us show reverence to You by honoring them. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 7—Song of Solomon 2, Psalm 45

Gracious God, thank You for loving me so deeply and devotedly. Please help me reflect Your self-giving love in my relationships with others. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 8—1 Peter 2:2-10, Psalm 71

Word of Life, thank You for the gift of Your Word, which tells me that I am chosen and precious to You. Always give me a desire to feast on its richness. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 9—Malachi 1:6-14, Psalm 96

Lord, grant me a cheerful and giving heart for the ministry of Your Word in my congregation and around the world. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 10—1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, Psalm 95

Lord, by Your Holy Spirit, fill my prayers with thanks to You and my heart with Your joy. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 11—Luke 13:1-5, Psalm 61

Heavenly Father, from the depths of our repentance, raise us in Your strong tower. Knowing Your victory on the cross, may we always be a good courage in Christ, our Lord. In His name we pray. Amen.

Sep 12—Jeremiah 29:1-14, Psalm 137

Lord, please bless my neighborhood and my community so that Your Word might grow here to the glory of Your Name. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 13—James 3:13-18, Psalm 111

God, please grant us Your wisdom, for you give "generously to all without reproach" (James 1:5). In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 14—Colossians 1:9-23, Psalm 22: 1-11, 14-31

Jesus, Redeemer and friend, by dying on the cross, You "delivered us from the domain of darkness" so that we can "share in the inheritance of the saints in light" (Colossians 1:13, 12). Thank You for transforming not only the cross but, by it, also us. Amen.

Sep 15—1 Samuel 1:9-28, Psalm 127

Heavenly Father, please give all parents peace and wisdom as they raise their children in Your Word. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Sep 16—Acts 5:17-42, Psalm 18:1-30

Dear Jesus, uphold in faith and grant mercy to Your people who suffer persecution for Your name around the world. Amen.

Sep 17—Matthew 18:15-22, Psalm 130

Lord, help me forgive others abundantly, as You have forgiven me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 18—Romans 8:18-39, Psalm 79

God, who is Three in One, thank You for inviting me to pray to You. Please help me hear Your voice in Your Word and fill me with Your Spirit as I speak with You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 19—Luke 10:25-37, Psalm 33

Compassionate Lord, help me love others as You have loved me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 20—John 16:12-33, Psalm 20

Lord, grant us peace through today's trials, knowing that You have secured victory for us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 21—Matthew 9:9-13, Psalm 119:33-40

Jesus, I confess that I am a sinner in need of Your forgiveness. Thank You for redeeming me. Help me reach out with Your word of mercy to all. Amen.

Sep 22—Daniel 9:1-23, Psalm 103

Merciful Lord, because of my sin, to me belongs open shame. But through Baptism, I belong to You. Help me walk anew in Your forgiveness. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Sep 23—Hebrews 12:1-2, Psalm 97

Jesus, thank You for the example of others whose faith inspires me. Let me ever look to You as I run the race of faith. Amen.

Sep 24—Matthew 5:38-48, Psalm 37:1-11

"Set me as a seal upon your heart, ... for love is strong as death ... Its flashes of fire, the very flame of the Lord" (Song of Solomon 8:6) In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 25—Isaiah 55:1-5, Psalm 34

Bread of Life, You are the one who truly satisfies and gives delight. Thank You for inviting me to the banquet of Your Word and Sacraments! In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 26—Genesis 1:26-31, Psalm 148

Dear Jesus, thank You for restoring me through Your death on the cross! Give me peace and joy, trusting You as my Maker and Redeemer. In Your name I pray. Amen.

Sep 27—1 Samuel 20:12-42, Psalm 25

Lord, thank You for my friends, especially Your dear Son. Please help me to be a true friend to those around me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 28—Romans 12:9-21, Psalm 69:1-21, 29-36

Gracious Lord, let my life brim over with zeal for You and give witness to Your deep and abiding love. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Sep 29—Revelation 12:7-12, Psalm 91

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna in the highest (LSB p. 195). Amen.

Sep 30—Hebrews 12:3-13, Psalm 94:12-15

Lord, grant me perseverance to be trained by Your disciple to yield the peaceful fruit of righteousness. In Jesus' name. 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 OCTOBER ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS,
MONDAY SEPTEMBER, 15.***



UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES:

Sweets and Treats
Church Council Meeting
St Lukes Community Lunch
Octoberfest
Poinsettia Order Deadline

Sep 7 10 AM
Sep 9 5:30 PM
Sep 10 12 PM
Sep 28 12 PM
Oct 1 12 PM



*We were just informed of the
 sad news of long time
 parishioner
 Sylvia Malsatski who
 passed away June 21, 2025.
 Please keep her family and
 the soul of Sylvia in your
 prayers.*

SWEETS AND TREATS

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF
EACH MONTH.



**OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS WILL
BE: September 7, 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!



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

**COMMUNITY
LUNCH**



ST LUKES COMMUNITY LUNCH

September 10th 12 PM

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

Thank you!

*Thank You to Carol and Tina for providing the
August Sweets and Treats.*



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



Pray
for Vocations



Jesus
Loves
You

The text "Jesus Loves You" is written in a large, elegant, black cursive script. The word "Jesus" is on the top line, "Loves" is in the middle, and "You" is on the bottom line. The word "Loves" is slightly smaller than the others. Two bright red hearts are integrated into the design: one is positioned to the right of "Jesus", and the other is to the left of "You". A horizontal line with five arrowheads pointing to the right is placed between "Jesus" and "Loves". Several small, black, four-pointed starburst symbols are scattered around the text, adding a decorative touch. The overall style is classic and affectionate.

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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