



Kirchenblatt November 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 November 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 November, we celebrate Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is associated with being thankful for what we have in this life. If we are thankful, we should be thankful to the one who gives us everything, who is God. The idea of giving thanks to God can only be accomplished through the power of prayer. How we give thanks to God is through our prayers. So, I want to talk a little bit about prayer. As I think about prayer, it causes me to consider that there is a process that we must use when we pray. When we pray, we must be persistent in our prayers, we must pray within God's will, and we must have faith in what we pray.

One of the things that Jesus reminds us to be in our prayers is to be persistent, to never give up, to pray constantly, and to continuously bring our petitions before God. When we pray, we must realize our prayers are always answered, but the answer to our prayers can be one of three things: yes, your prayers are answered; no, your prayers are not answered, or wait and see how God carries out His plan for us and our prayers. We must remember that we can't pester God until He gives us what we want, because that sounds a lot like works. God is a God of grace not a God who is persuaded or coaxed into doing what we want when we do something for God. That is not Grace. God loves us and knows what we need and knows what our prayers are, before we even pray them. God also knows what good things that we need, because He is our Heavenly Father. We must always be careful that when we pray persistently; that we do not assume that we're not praying hard enough, if our prayers are not answered. The true answer may be simply God is saying no to our request or simply to wait. When God says no to our prayers, it is usually because He has a better plan for us and knows what is better for us.

This brings me to the other aspect that we must understand about prayer. Our prayers must always be in sync with God's Good Will. Because we have the Holy Spirit, we know what God's Will is and we pray in accordance with God's Holy Will. That's why we never pray for the things of this world like wealth or power. We pray for others and for ourselves that God's Will is accomplished, not that we will benefit from our prayer; but our prayer will always bring glory unto God. God will always give us what we truly need and God will give us more than we could ever ask for. This is the Will of our Loving God.

The last thing that we must remember about our prayers is that we must always believe that our prayers will be accomplished. In our words, we must have faith that God will give us in accordance to His Holy Will as to what He believes that is the best for us and for others.

So remember when you pray, be persistent but always within the Will of God through the power of the Holy Spirit, and to believe in what you are praying for and that God will accomplish His Good Will in our lives and in the lives of other people to the glory of God, the Father, the Almighty, Amen.

I pray with persistence and faith that God may truly bless you with the grace that Jesus Christ won for us on the Cross. What more can we be more thankful for than forgiven of sins and eternal life that comes to us through the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior,

Mark Hoover

President of Saint James Lutheran Church

Contribution & Attendance Summary

August 2024

Contributions \$835
Average Weekly Attendance: 9

August 2025

Contributions \$1,267
Average Weekly Attendance: 9



INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY

August 1 2025 August 31, 2025

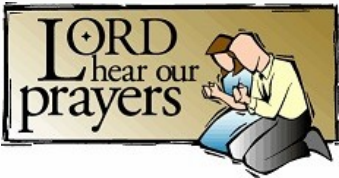
INCOME	
Bank Interest	\$0.00
Contributions	
General	\$1,267.00
Designated	\$0.00
Special	\$0.00
Other Income	\$4,000.00
	\$5,267.00
EXPENSES	
Pastoral Administration	\$294.48
Worship & Music	\$617.74
Office	\$1,087.00
Custodial & Property	\$870.84
Uncategorized	\$990.50
	\$3,860.56

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



Nov 1—Revelation 7:9-17, Psalm 121

Our hands and feet, Lord, strengthen; / With joy our spirits bless / Until we see the ending / Of all our life's distress. / And so throughout our lifetime / Keep us within Your care / And at our end then bring us / To heav'n to praise You there. (LSB 754:6). Amen.

Nov 2—Luke 11:27-28, Psalm 119:105-112

Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word (LSB 655:1). Amen.

Nov 3—Matthew 7:13-14, Psalm 25:1-7

Holy Jesus, ev'ry day / Keep us in the narrow way (LSB 397:4). Amen.

Nov 4—Hebrews 10:19-25, Psalm 94:8-15

Order my footsteps by Thy Word / And make my heart sincere; / Let sin have no dominion, Lord, / But keep my conscience clear (LSB 707:2). Amen.

Nov 5—Genesis 4:1-16, Psalm 133

O sweetest Love, Your grace on us bestow; / Set our hearts with sacred fire aglow / That with hearts united we love each other, / Every stranger, sister, and brother. / Lord, have mercy! (LSB 768:2). Amen.

Nov 6—Luke 12:16-21, Psalm 49:1-9

Jesus, priceless treasure, / Fount of purest pleasure, / Truest friend to me, / Ah, how long in anguish / Shall my spirit languish, / Yearning, Lord, for Thee? (LSB 743:1). Amen.

Nov 7—1 Corinthians 11:23-32, Psalm 7:7-12

They who this word do not believe / This food unworthily receive, / Salvation here will never find— / May we this warning keep in mind! (LSB 634:6). Amen.

Nov 8—John 6:66-71, Psalm 69:16-19

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay / Close by me forever and love me, I pray (LSB 365:3). Amen.

Nov 9—Mark 2:23-28, Psalm 122

O grant that each of us, / Now met before Thee here, / May meet together thus / When Thou and Thine appear (LSB 921:3). Amen.

Nov 10—Genesis 2:15-17, Psalm 19:1-6

Yours the gold and Yours the silver, / Yours the wealth of land and sea; / We but stewards of Your bounty / Held in solemn trust will be (LSB 842:2). Amen.

Nov 11—Matthew 23:37-39, Psalm 61:1-4

Keep me, O keep me, King of kings, / Beneath Thine own almighty wings (LSB 883:1). Amen.

Nov 12—Jude 24-25, Psalm 116:1-6

O keep me watchful, then, and humble; / Permit me nevermore to stray. / Uphold me when my feet would stumble, / And keep me on the narrow way (LSB 694:4). Amen.

Nov 13—Proverbs 28:13-14, Psalm 32:1-5

Lord, to You I make confession: / I have sinned and gone astray, / I have multiplied transgression, / Chosen for myself my way (LSB 608:1). Amen.

Nov 14—Isaiah 26:1-9, Psalm 29

Grant us Thy peace throughout our earthly life, / Our balm in sorrow and our stay in strife (LSB 917:4). Amen.

Nov 15—1 Corinthians 6:15-19, Psalm 119:9-16

Lord Jesus, think on me / And purge away my sin; / From worldly passions set me free / And make me pure within (LSB 610:1). Amen.

Nov 16—1 Peter 1:1-7, Psalm 37:1-9

And then at my departure, / Lord, take me home to You, / Your riches to inherit / As all You said holds true (LSB 587:3). Amen.

Nov 17—Deuteronomy 32:1-10, Psalm 16

I love Your Church, O God, / Your saints in ev'ry land, / Dear as the apple of Your eye / And graven on Your hand (LSB 651:3). Amen.

Nov 18—Ezekiel 34:11-16, Psalm 100

Thine forever! Shepherd, keep / These Thy frail and trembling sheep (LSB 687:4). Amen.

Nov 19—Luke 18:1-8, Psalm 102:1-12

Thee we would be always blessing, / Serve Thee as Thy hosts above, / Pray and praise Thee without ceasing, / Glory in Thy perfect love (LSB 700:3). Amen.

Nov 20—Exodus 20:1-17, Psalm 78:1-7

Grant me the strength to do / With ready heart and willing / Whatever You command, / My calling here fulfilling (LSB 696:2). Amen.

Nov 21—1 Corinthians 15:33-34, Psalm 111

Lord, let me win my foes / With kindly words and actions, / And let me find good friends / For counsel and correction (LSB 696:4). Amen.

Nov 22—1 Peter 3:13-17, Psalm 59:1-5

My soul and body keep from harm, / And over all extend Your arm (LSB 876:2). Amen.

Nov 23—Revelation 2:9-11, Psalm 98:4-9

Then guard and keep us to the end, / Secure in You, our gracious friend, / That in
Your heav'nly family / We sing Your praise eternally (LSB 866:6). Amen.

Nov 24—Romans 7:7-25, Psalm 40:8-11

Jesus, Thy boundless love to me / No thought can reach, no tongue declare; /
Unite my thankful heart to Thee, / And reign without a rival there! (LSB 683:1). Amen.

Nov 25—Ecclesiastes 5:18-20, Psalm 30:1-5

O Holy Spirit, grant us grace / That we our Lord and Savior / In faith and fervent
love embrace / And truly serve Him ever (LSB 693:1). Amen.

Nov 26—Matthew 5:21-26, Psalm 145:8-13

Come, O Christ, and reign among us, / King of love and Prince of Peace; / Hush
the storm of strife and passion, / Bid its cruel discords cease (LSB 842:3). Amen.

Nov 27—Luke 17:11-19, Psalm 139:16-18

Lord of glory, You have bought us / With Your lifeblood as the price, / Never
grudging for the lost ones / That tremendous sacrifice; / And with that have freely given /
Blessings countless as the sand / To the unthankful and the evil / With Your own unsparing
hand (LSB 851:1). Amen.

Nov 28—Romans 8:5-11, Psalm 26:1-6

Jesus, grant that balm and healing / In Your holy wounds I find, / Ev'ry hour that I
am feeling / Pains of body and of mind (LSB 421:1). Amen.

Nov 29—Matthew 6:25-34, Psalm 4

Now the light has gone away; / Father, listen while I pray, / Asking Thee to watch
and keep / And to send me quiet sleep (LSB 887:1). Amen.

Nov 30—Luke 12:35-40, Psalm 118:25-28

May all our lamps be burning / With oil enough and more // That we, with Him
returning, / May find an open door! (LSB 514:1). 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 DECEMBER ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS,
SATURDAY NOVEMBER, 15.***



UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES:

Sweets and Treats

Nov 2 10 AM

Annual Congregational Meeting

Nov 9 12 PM

St Luke's Community Lunch

Nov 13 12 PM

Decorating Church for Christmas

Dec 6 10 AM

****Pizza afterwards***

Allegheny Chorale Concert

Dec 7 3 PM

Council Meeting

Dec 9 3:30 PM

**** Sharon Lightner and Mark Hoover will be attending the Allegheny Synod Assembly on Oct 31st and Nov 1 at the Blair County Convention Center***





SWEETS AND TREATS

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF
EACH MONTH.

OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS WILL
BE: November 2, 2025
Provided By: Carol & Tina

* 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 Sharon Lightner for providing the
October Sweets and Treats.*

*Please consider volunteering and signing up to
sponsor Sweets and Treats. We are signing up
volunteers for 2026.*

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.

**COMMUNITY
LUNCH**



ST LUKES COMMUNITY LUNCH

Nov 13th 12 PM

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

SWEETS



TREATS

SWEETS AND TREATS

**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF
EACH MONTH.**

**OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS WILL
TODAY BE: November 2, 2025
Provided By: Carol & Tina**

* 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!



POTLUCK DINNER

**The next Potluck Dinner is
TODAY October 26, 2025
12 PM**



**NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL
MEETING
December 9, 2025
3:30 PM**



The **Annual Congregational** meeting
will be held:

November 9, 2025

after the service. There will be nominations for council members and then the election for council. The budget will be discussed and then anything else that the congregation may bring to our attention.



choose
Kindness



**do unto
others
as you would
have them
do unto
you**

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