



# Kirchenblatt December 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 - 1 PM**

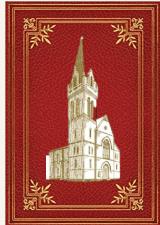
**EMAIL: STJAMESALTOONA@GMAIL.COM**

**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

### December 2025

Dear Members of St. James:

Grace, mercy and peace from God, our Father, and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In this busy season of Christmas, as the world go about in a frantic state, we are called to cry out just like John the Baptist. We are to be the ones in the world who are crying out, prepare the way of the Lord and make His paths straight. We should be calling the world to repent and to look to the Kingdom of God. We need to cry out in this chaotic world that we have sinned against our neighbors and against God. We need to repent and believe that Jesus Christ has died for our sins so that we can receive forgiveness.

We should be shouting out in this world about the Glory of the Lord who is Jesus Christ coming to the world this Christmas season to save us from our sins. We are to tell everyone the Good News that the Son of God, Jesus Christ, has come into the world. Jesus came into this world gently and humbly, but with great power to save us from our sins. In this time of the year, we are reminded of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, which is Good News, but we should also be aware of Jesus Christ died on the Cross for us. The world wants to celebrate the Holidays with gifts, but Jesus came into the world to give us the greatest of all gifts, His Life as a ransom for our lives. This is a gift that the world does not understand, but it is a gift that we treasure in our hearts. This gift gives us forgiveness of sins and eternal life in Heaven.

In this Christmas season, I want to remind that we celebrate Jesus Christ coming into this world in Bethlehem as a baby. But I remind you that this is only the beginning of the life of Jesus Christ, but Jesus was in his greatest power when He hung on a Cross. The world sees the virgin born of Jesus as a beautiful event but see the death of Jesus on the Cross as something that is tragic, horrifying, and shameful. The Church sees the death of Jesus on the Cross as the most powerful act that has ever occurred in human history. Jesus came into the world to save us by God's Grace. Jesus has come into the world to feed us with His Word, to gather us into His Church, to gently lead us through this world of chaos to bring us into His Kingdom, and in the end to carry us to be with Him in Heaven that He has prepared for us through His Death and Resurrection.

I pray that the Holy Lord embolden you to shout out the joys of Jesus Christ coming into the world to save us from our sins by His dying on the Cross. And to cry out in thanksgiving for God's gift of Grace. May you have a blessed Advent Season and a Holy Christmas.

*Mark Hoover*

*President of Saint James Lutheran Church*

## Contribution & Attendance Summary

### September 2024

Contributions \$0  
Average Weekly Attendance:9

### September 2025

Contributions \$910  
Average Weekly Attendance:9

## December Birthdays

No birthdays for December



## INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY

September 1 2025 September 30, 2025

### INCOME

Bank Interest	\$0.00
Contributions	
General	\$910.00
Designated	\$0.00
Special	\$0.00
Other Income	<u>\$4,000.00</u>
	\$4,910.00

### EXPENSES

Pastoral Administration	\$762.96
Worship & Music	\$617.74
Office	\$1,689.82
Custodial & Property	\$839.25
Uncategorized	<u>\$114.06</u>
	\$4,023.83

## 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



## Dec 1—Isaiah 7:10-17, Psalm 122

Immanuel, draw us in. You are with us and we adore You. In Your name, Jesus, we pray. Amen.

## Dec 2—Isaiah 9:1-7, Psalm 33

Dear Lord, we remember Jesus is our Immanuel, God with us. He is what we need, always. Thank You for walking with us. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

## Dec 3—1 Peter 5:1-11, Psalm 50:1-15

Your name, Jesus, wields great power. Please protect us, keep us vigilant, and keep us mindful of those who may be vulnerable. In Your powerful name. Amen.

## Dec 4—2 Peter 1:1-11, Psalm 18:1-6

Thank You, Lord, for Your priceless gifts. Teach us to build on the great gifts You give us and grow in Your love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## Dec 5—Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 102:12-22

Help me live a holy and righteous life for You, dear Jesus. Amen.

## Dec 6—2 Peter 3:8-18, Psalm 90

"May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord" (2 Peter 1:2). Amen.

## Dec 7—1 John 1:1-8, Psalm 24

Keep us walking in Your light, Jesus. Grant us grace and clarity when the walk gets hot, and sweeten the fellowship with friends on Your path. Amen.

## Dec 8—1 John 2:15-29, Psalm 103

Help us, Jesus, to do Your will and abide with You into eternity. In Your beautiful name and perfect love. Amen.

## Dec 9—1 John 3:16-24, Psalm 8

Dear Lord, please see us in Christ as Your lovable creatures. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## Dec 10—1 John 4:7-12, Psalm 14

Thank You, Lord, for Your perfect love, which, through Jesus, empowers us to live. For Your glory and in the matchless name of Your Son. Amen.

## Dec 11—1 John 5:1-12, Psalm 126

O Holy Spirit, come and sow in me a heart of faith in Jesus Christ alone that my sins may be forgiven and my eternity secured. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## Dec 12—Lamentations 3:19-24, Psalm 130

Heavenly Father, may the mercies of this morning carry me throughout the day in Jesus' name. Amen.

## Dec 13—Revelation 1, Psalm 80

Help me, O Savior, to see You through this revelation and believe You are the Son of God. Amen.

## Dec 14—Revelation 2:1-7, Psalm 25

O Lamb of God, Jesus, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on me and forgive my sins. Amen.

## Dec 15—Revelation 3, Psalm 67

Lord, put works to the faith by which I am forgiven of my sins. Help me hear and obey the call of Christ, in whose name I pray. Amen.

## Dec 16—Revelation 4, Psalm 91

Holy Lamb of God, thank You for Your perfect life by which I am fully redeemed. Amen.

## Dec 17—Revelation 5, Psalm 16

Precious Savior, Jesus, thank You for the worthy sacrifice You made for me. Help me live a life worthy of You. Amen.

## Dec 18—Revelation 6, Psalm 62

Heavenly Father, today I trust Jesus to take my sins away and free me from the wrath to come. In His name I pray. Amen.

## Dec 19—Revelation 7, Psalm 27

Loving Father, when tears cloud my eyes and worry haunts my days, remind me of that day when tears will be no more. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## Dec 20—Revelation 8, Psalm 72

Son of God, thank You for bearing my woes and carrying my sins in Your sinless body. Amen.

## Dec 21—Isaiah 40:18-31, Psalm 110

O Lord, continue to pour out Your wonderful gifts upon us. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

## Dec 22—Revelation 10, Psalm 40

Dear God, preserve us in faith until You call us home or arrive in glory! In Jesus' name. Amen.

## Dec 23—Isaiah 44:1-8, Psalm 85

Dear Father, lead me daily to trust in You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Dec 24—Revelation 12, Psalm 19

Holy Lord Jesus, as we remember Your birth, fill us with Your great hope! Amen.

Dec 25—Isaiah 49:1-18, Psalm 98

Dear God, thank You for the precious gift of Your Son, Jesus, born in Bethlehem. Shine the light of that hope, by the power of the Spirit, through my heart, my words, and my actions. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Dec 26—Matthew 1:18-25, Psalm 116

Dear Jesus, be at work in my life too. Amen.

Dec 27—Matthew 2:1-12, Psalm 121

Holy Lord, chart my path in love and service to You. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Dec 28—Matthew 2:13-23, Psalm 111

Dear God, stay ever with me. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Dec 29—Isaiah 55, Psalm 96

O Lord speak to me through Your vibrant Word. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Dec 30—Isaiah 58:6-12, Psalm 93

In Jesus, may I do Your work in the world, Holy Father. In His name I pray. Amen.

Dec 31—Luke 1:45-56, Psalm 45

Dear God, open my heart to tell Your message in my life. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

### Dear Friends,

Donna and Bill Wilt would like to extend our deepest and most sincere thanks for the cards, gifts, and well-wishes we received at the Potluck Dinner held to say goodbye as we begin a new chapter of our lives in New Jersey. We are settling in nicely to our new apartment and adjusting well to our new surroundings.

We plan to attend worship services whenever we are back in the area for visits. We will miss all of you and will always treasure our memories of St. James.

If you would like to contact us, our new address is:

**1 Riverwalk  
Suite 408  
Plainsboro, NJ 08536**

With heartfelt gratitude,  
**Donna & Bill Wilt**



# 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 JANUARY ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS, MONDAY DECEMBER, 15.**



## UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES:

<b>Decorating Church for Christmas</b>	<b>Dec 6 10 AM</b>
<i>*Pizza afterwards</i>	
<b>Allegheny Chorale Concert</b>	<b>Dec 7 3 PM</b>
<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Dec 9 4 PM</b>
<b>St Luke's Community Lunch</b>	<b>Dec 10 12 PM</b>
<b>Food Drive for St Lukes Last Day</b>	<b>Dec 14</b>
<b>Sweets and Treats</b>	<b>Jan 4 10 AM</b>

- **NOTE: Worship Services will be held in the Sunday School Room until Palm Sunday!**
- **NOTE: The Allegheny Chorale Concert and Christmas Eve Service will still be held in the Sanctuary!**



Saint James is collecting donations of food for the Saint Luke Food Pantry until December 14th.

Please place your donations in the box by the front entry of the church by the stairs.



## SWEETS AND TREATS

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF  
EACH MONTH.

OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS WILL  
BE: January 4, 2026  
Provided By: Mark Hoover

\* 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!

**NOTE: No Sweets and Treats in December!**

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



### ST LUKES COMMUNITY LUNCH

Dec 10th 12 PM

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



**NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL  
MEETING  
December 9, 2025  
4 PM**

Allegheny  
Chorale  presents

Free to the public

# Sharing Christmas



**Sunday, December 7, 2025 at 3pm  
St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church, Altoona**

**Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at 7pm  
First Presbyterian Church, Tyrone**

**Deborah Estright, Director**

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 Lighner  
Shirley Manbeck  
Mike Savino  
Diane Schultz  
Carol Weaver

**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  
\*Mike Savino

**Christian Education/**

**Social Ministry**  
**\*Evelyn Holsinger**  
\*Robin Kessler  
\*Sharon Lightner  
\*Shirley Manbeck  
\*Diane Schultz

**Worship & Music**

**\*Mark Hoover**  
\*Sharon Lightner  
Pat McConnell  
\*Diane Shultz

**Finance**

**\*Mark Hoover**  
\*Betty Boslet  
Ralph Grove  
\*Robin Kessler

**Stewardship/Evangelism**

\*Betty Boslet  
\*Sharon Lightner

**By-Laws**

**\*Mark Hoover**  
\*Betty Boslet  
\*Mike Savino

**Property**

**\*Evelyn Holsinger**  
Bill Dambeck  
**Bob Holsinger**  
\*Robin Kessler  
\*Shirley Manbeck  
\*Mike Savino

\* Denotes Council Member  
Thrivent Rep.—  
Betty Boslet