



Kirchenblatt January 2026

(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 January 2026

Dear Members of St. James:

Grace, mercy and peace from God, our Father, and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. During this time of Christmas have you noticed how much joy and celebration that the World places in Christmas Day. There seems to be a lot of excitement before Christmas buying those special gifts, finding the perfect tree, getting the right Christmas ornaments. But after Christmas Day, suddenly we start returning our unwanted and wrong sized clothing. We tear down our Christmas trees and put away our Christmas decorations, and we remove all signs of Christmas in our homes and in businesses. We try not to do this in the Church, because we tried to celebrate the 12 days of Christmas. But so many times, we get caught up in the World and we do the same things that the World does. We start to dismantle Christmas and Jesus in our lives. As we enter the New Year, we must decide in our own hearts and minds as to what to do with the Christmas Jesus. After we just got done with Christmas Day, when we experienced the joy of His arrival on Christmas Eve, do we also put away Jesus from our lives. Do we tear Jesus down and remove him from our lives.

I believe that we should continue to have Jesus in our lives and in our Churches for the rest of the year. Jesus should be a central theme that begins with Christmas and continues through the rest of the year particularly at the time of Easter when we celebrate His Death and Resurrection. So many times, in our lives, the World gets in the way, and we get distracted by all the craziness of the World as we face national and local crises such as stormy weather, sickness, death and grief.

We are told during the First Sunday of Christmas that God sent an Angel to Joseph to warn him about the coming army of Herod to destroy the life of the Christ child. God seems to have provided for Joseph, Mary and Jesus protection in the form a warning. Many times, in our lives, we also receive warnings about things that are going to happen in our lives. God also sends us warnings and protects us from the dangers of this World and dangers within our spiritual lives. In this coming year, you're going to have ups and downs. The one great thing that we will have in our lives is the presence of Jesus Christ. Jesus is always present in our lives because He is concern for us. Jesus sends us warnings and guides us how to avoid the problems of our lives. Yes, sometimes we receive these warnings, guidance and protection, and sometimes we don't. But the important thing is that Jesus is with us and He's there to get us through all trails and tribulations. Even though Satan and sin may try to destroy our lives, we must realize that God sends His protection and whatever is meant for evil in our lives God will make those things right and will make them for our good. So, in this coming year, I remind you that Jesus is with you each and every day. He's there to protect you and above all things He is there to save you through His Death and Resurrection. Jesus has saved us from sin, death, and the Devil. He makes our lives good in the midst of bad times because He is with us. The Church is called into this World to proclaim Christ in good and bad times, because Jesus is always with us.

I pray that you will continue to have the joy of Jesus Christ coming into the World, because He has come into the World to save us from our sins by His dying on the Cross. I pray that God's gift of Grace continues to bless you in this coming year. May you have a blessed Christmas Season and a Holy Epiphany. HAPPY NEW YEAR IN CHRIST'S NAME!!!

Mark Hoover

President of Saint James Lutheran Church



January Birthdays

Carolyn Feather	1/5
Carol Weaver	1/14



Pastoral Administration	\$612.96
Worship & Music	\$617.74
Office	\$659.28
Custodial & Property	\$521.98
Uncategorized	\$0.00
	<u>\$2,411.98</u>

LORD hear our prayers

Jan 1—Galatians 3:23-29, Psalm 65:1-8

Jesus, thank You for doing what we fail to do and for making us heirs of the promise. Amen.

Jan 2—Numbers 6:22-27, Psalm 40

Bless and keep us in Your holy name, O Lord. Be gracious to us and give us Your peace. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jan 3—1 Kings 3:4-15, Psalm 11

Jesus, thank You for paying for my sin by dying on the cross. Thank You for giving me faith, that I may rise and live with You forever. Amen.

Jan 4—Ephesians 1:3-14, Psalm 147:1-11

Father in heaven, thank You for healing our broken hearts, binding up our wounds, and lifting us up Your glory now and forever. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jan 5—Luke 2:40-52, Psalm 119:97-104

"Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth" (Psalm 86:11). "Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells" (Psalm 26:8). In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jan 6—Matthew 2:1-12, Psalm 72:1-11

Lord Jesus, "of Jacob's race, King David's son, our Lord and master, You have one our hearts to serve You only!" (LSB 395:1). Amen.

Jan 7—Ephesians 3:1-12, Psalm 45:6-17

Dear Jesus, thank You for saving me. Amen.

Jan 8—Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:12-19

"Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. Blessed be His glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with His glory! Amen and Amen. (Psalm 72:18-19).

Jan 9—Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 29

Come, Lord Jesus! Come quickly!. Amen.

Jan 10—Romans 6:1-11, Psalm 51

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me" (Psalm 51:10). In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jan 11—Matthew 3:13-17, Psalm 2:7-11

God our Father, thank You for covering my sin with the blood of Jesus so that You are pleased with me, unworthy as I am. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jan 12—Matthew 8:5-13, Psalm 119:105-112

"Have mercy upon us, O Jesus!" (LSB 510:4). Amen.

Jan 13—Matthew 15:21-28, Psalm 119:153-160

Jesus, strengthen my faith in You. "Great is Your mercy, O Lord" (Psalm 119:156). Amen.

Jan 14—2 Peter 1:1-15, Psalm 57

"Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in You my soul takes refuge" (Psalm 57:1) Help me to walk in Your ways. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jan 15—Matthew 24:42-47, Psalm 55:16-23

Lord Jesus Christ, help me to stay awake and keep the faith until You return. Amen.

Jan 16—1 Corinthians 1:1-9, Psalm 53

Lord Jesus, keep me with Your saints, that I will be encouraged and strengthened in my faith. Amen.

Jan 17—John 1:29-42, Psalm 19

Amen! Come quickly, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Jan 18—Mark 8:27-35, Psalm 118:19-29

"You are my God, and I will give thanks to You" (Psalm 118:28). In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jan 19—Matthew 4:12-25, Psalm 119:57-64

Lord Jesus, thank You for coming to me to forgive my sin. When You come again in Your glory, I know You will call me out of my grave to live with You forever. Amen.

Jan 20—Acts 4:8-13, Psalm 8

"O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!" (Psalm 8:9) In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jan 21—1 Timothy 6:11-16, Psalm 71:15-25

Lord Jesus, strengthen my faith so I can fight the good fight of faith and in herit eternal life. Amen.

Jan 22—Isaiah 49:1-5, Psalm 139

Jesus, thank You for becoming flesh for us. Amen.

Jan 23—Isaiah 9:1-4, Psalm 27

Lord Jesus, increase our joy that we may rejoice before You all our days. Amen.

Jan 24—Acts 16:1-5, Psalm 84

Jesus, thank You for my pastor. Amen.

Jan 25—Acts 9:1-22, Psalm 67

Jesus, thank You for choosing and forgiving a great sinner like me. Amen.

Jan 26—Titus 1:1-9, Psalm 119:17-24

“Deal bountifully with Your servant, that I may live and keep Your word” (Psalm 119:17). In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Jan 27—Luke 10:1-9, Psalm 89:1-5

Lord Jesus, be with my pastor today, that he will “make known Your faithfulness to all generations” (Psalm 89:1). Amen.

Jan 28—Acts 20:28-35, Psalm 71:1-4

Jesus, please be near me, defend me, and be my refuge every day. Amen.

Jan 29—Galatians 1:11-24, Psalm 89:13-18

Lord Jesus, give me repentance and faith to follow You all my days. Amen.

Jan 30—Matthew 19:27-30, Psalm 119:41-48

Jesus, help me to follow You and know it’s the most important thing. Amen.

Jan 31—1 Corinthians 1:10-18, Psalm 22:27-31

“O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind; Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, and be Thyself our King of Peace” (LSB 357:7). 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 FEBRUARY ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS,
MONDAY DECEMBER, 15.***



UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES:

Sweets and Treats

Jan 4 10 AM

Un-decorate Church

Jan 10 10 AM

*** *Pizza served afterwards***

St Luke's Community Lunch

Jan 14 PM

Potluck Dinner

Jan 18 12 PM

Council Meeting

Mar 9 4 PM

- NOTE: Worship Services will be held in the Sunday School Room until Palm Sunday!**





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!

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



ST LUKES COMMUNITY LUNCH

Jan 14th 12 PM

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



**The next Potluck Dinner is
January 18, 2026
12PM**



**NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL
MEETING
March 9, 2026
4 PM**



Church Council Members

Mark Hoover—President
Robin Kessler—Vice President
Evelyn Holsinger—Secretary
Ralph Grove—Treasurer
Betty Boslet
Sharon Lightner
Shirley Manbeck
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
*Carol Weaver

Worship & Music

***Mark Hoover**
*Sharon Lightner
*Shirley Manbeck
Pat McConnell
*Diane Shultz
*Carol Weaver

Finance

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

Stewardship/Evangelism

*Betty Boslet
*Sharon Lightner

By-Laws

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

Property

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

* Denotes Council Member
Thrivent Rep.—
Betty Boslet