



Kirchenblatt February 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

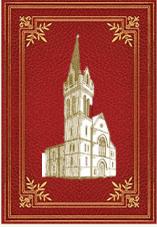
EMAIL: STJAMESALTOONA@GMAIL.COM

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 February 2026

Dear Members of St. James:

Grace, mercy and peace from God, our Father, and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As we end the season of Epiphany in the church calendar, we enter the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday reminds us of our mortality. "Ashes to ashes dust to dust. You are dust and you shall return to dust." These are the words that we will hear at the Ash Wednesday service as ashes are placed on our foreheads and that reminds us that we are mortal and we will die. Lent is a time when we are reminded that we are captive to Sin, Death, and the Devil. By our own power and ability, we cannot overcome any of these. We are captive to our sins. We know that our earthly bodies will become diseased and fail which will lead to our deaths. We also realize that the Devil or Satan is in control of this world and in a sense is in control of our lives because of Sin. As we follow Jesus towards the cross in this season of Lent, we are reminded we need a Savior. That Savior is Jesus Christ who Himself who became the perfect sacrifice that forgives our sins because of His sacrificial death on the Cross. We have no power over our sinful nature, declining bodies, or the devil and the sinful world. But Jesus Christ has the power to overcome Sin, Death and the Devil and He is the one who sets us free from our sins, He is the one who offers us eternal life, He is the one who has conquered the Devil and this sinful world. He is truly our Lord and Savior.

During this time of Lent, we will hear the teachings of Jesus that shows us that we need Him to overcome this sinful world. Jesus tells us that He has the power to free us from this world and from the sin that is in it. He is the one who has come into this world to die on a Cross for our Sins so that death will no longer have dominion over us. By His Resurrection, He has the power to overcome Death and to give us life eternal in the Kingdom of God. We have no one else that we can look to, because Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life and no one can come unto the Father except through Him. We come under to God only through the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ and that is why He is our Lord and Savior. He is the one who we depend upon to overcome Sin, Death, and the Devil for He has already overcome them all. And as we move through the seasonal lent and Jesus faces His Death on the Cross, we too face His death and we come to the realization that through His Death, we have Salvation. During this season of Lent, we look forward to the conquering death of Jesus Christ on the Cross as we encounter Him during Holy Week and His Victory over Death at His Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

I pray that you will continue to have the joy of Jesus Christ during this season of Lent. I pray that you come to know Jesus Christ as I know Him as my Lord and Savior. The one who has come into the world to conquer Sin, Death, and the Devil by His Death on the Cross and His Resurrection. Only through Jesus Christ do we have salvation!! Praise be Jesus Christ!!!

Mark Hoover

President of Saint James Lutheran Church

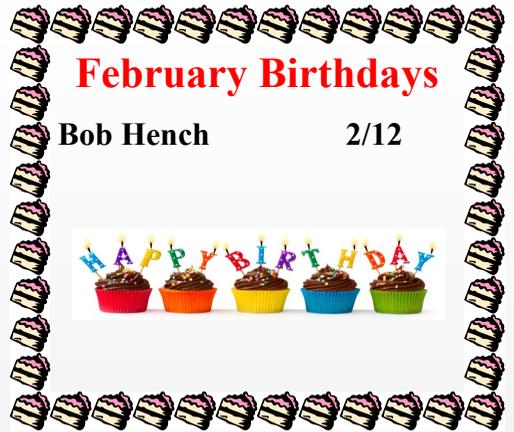
Contribution & Attendance Summary

November 2024

Contributions \$721
Average Weekly Attendance:8

November 2025

Contributions \$880.50
Average Weekly Attendance:9



INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY

November 1 2025 November 30, 2025

INCOME

Bank Interest	\$0.00
Contributions	
General	\$500.00
Designated	\$80.50
Special	\$0.00
Other Income	\$4,000.00
	\$4,580.50

EXPENSES

Pastoral Administration	\$451.28
Worship & Music	\$617.74
Office	\$2,872.72
Custodial & Property	\$1,631.74
Uncategorized	\$0.00
	\$5,573.48

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



Feb 1—Mark 1:9-13, Psalm 8

Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your forgiveness and favor poured out on us in the waters of Baptism. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Feb 2—Luke 2:22-32, Psalm 98

Heavenly Father, bless us with the patience of Simeon. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Feb 3—Mark 1:14-20, Psalm 25:4-15

Dear Savior, help me to be a fisher of men. In Your name I pray. Amen.

Feb 4—Mark 1:21-27, Psalm 16:1-7

Dear Jesus, for the victory over the devil I have in You, I praise Your holy name. Amen.

Feb 5—Mark 1:40-45, Psalm 86:1-13

Jesus, thank You for the favor and compassion You have showered upon me. Amen.

Feb 6—Mark 2:13-17, Psalm 32:1-5

Dear Jesus, thank You for making me Your disciple. Amen.

Feb 7—Mark 3:1-6, Psalm 92

Jesus, thank You for taking the infirmity of our sin to the cross and restoring us to eternal life with You. Amen.

Feb 8—Mark 4:35-41, Psalm 46:11

Thank You, Lord Jesus, for being with me in the storms of life. Amen.

Feb 9—Mark 6:1-6, Psalm 27:1-10

Dear Jesus, cast out all doubt that I might have and help me see You more deeply as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Feb 10—Mark 6:30-44, Psalm 34:1-8

Jesus, I thank You for the food You give that satisfies my body and soul. Amen.

Feb 11—Mark 6:45-52, Psalm 91:1-13

Dear Lord, for facing the headwinds of life with me, I praise Your presence in my boat. In Your holy name. Amen.

Feb 12—Mark 7:24-30, Psalm 103:1-12

Lord, for sparing not Your crumbs, I give You thanks and praise. Amen.

Feb 13—Mark 7:31-37, Psalm 119:105-112

Jesus, for speaking this word over me, I praise Your name. Amen.

Feb 14—Mark 8:22-26, Psalm 35:1-10

Dear Jesus, for Your sacred spit, which empowers me to believe in You, I praise Your name. Amen.

Feb 15—Matthew 17:1-9, Psalm 97:1-9

Heavenly Father, as the season of Lent begins, help me to hear. In Jesus' name.

Amen.

Feb 16—Mark 8:34-38, Psalm 26

Dear Jesus, for empowering me to wear God's designer labels, I praise Your name.

Amen.

Feb 17—Mark 9:33-37, Psalm 113

Dear Jesus, please empower me to be first. Amen.

Feb 18—Joel 2:12-19, Psalm 51:1-12

Dear Lord, I pray that You will bless my hearing. Amen.

Feb 19—Mark 10:13-16, Psalm 127:1-5

Jesus, I praise You for placing me in Your kingdom. Amen.

Feb 20—Mark 10:17-27, Psalm 29

Lord Jesus, what a blessed assurance: With God all things are possible. Amen.

Feb 21—Mark 10:35-45, Psalm 146:5-9

Dear Jesus, for Your love made real to me in Your service, I praise Your name.

Amen.

Feb 22—Mark 11:15-19, Psalm 100

Jesus, empower me to keep God's name holy in my life. Amen.

Feb 23—Mark 12:1-12, Psalm 118:19-24

Dear Savior Jesus, thank You for being the rock of my salvation today and always.

Amen.

Feb 24—Mark 12:13-17, Psalm 116:12-19

Jesus, for giving Your all for me and my salvation, I give my all to You. Amen.

Feb 25—Mark 13:32-37, Psalm 2

Lord Jesus, in Your power, may I remain ready for Your return. Amen.

Feb 26—Mark 14:3-9, Psalm 23

Precious Savior, Jesus, for giving Your all to me, help me give all of my life to You. Amen.

Feb 27—Mark 33-40, Psalm 22:1-2

Father in heaven, for making me Your child through the abandonment of Your Child, I praise Your holy name. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Feb 28—Mark 16:1-8, Psalm 118:1-16

Living Lord, for conquering the grave for Peter and me, my heart is filled with joy. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Easter Flowers

Your name (as you wish it to appear in the bulletin)

This Donation is made:

IHO: _____

IMO: _____

Choice of Flowers:

Yellow Tulips 5/6 Bulb (\$13) Red Tulips 5/6 Bulb (\$13)
 8" Daffodils (\$16) Lilies single stem (\$17)
 Multi-Color 3 Bulb Hyacinths (\$17)

Amount of Contribution: \$ _____ Envelope Number: _____

Please Check One:

Yes, I do want to take the flower(s) home with me.

No, I do not want to take the flower(s) home with me. I would like them to be given to a shut-in or friend of St. James.

Please use the My Offering envelope in your pew to place your order and payment. Check the Flower Fund box on the envelope and place in the offering plate.

Orders must be received by 12 PM February 20, 2026

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 MARCH ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS,
SUNDAY FEBRUARY, 15.***



UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES:

Sweets and Treats	Feb 1 10 AM
St Luke's Community Lunch	Feb 11 12 PM
Easter Flower Order Deadline	Feb 20 12 PM
Potluck Dinner	Feb 22 12 PM
Council Meeting	Mar 9 4 PM
Allegheny Chorale Concert	Apr 26 3 PM
Church Picnic	Jun 28 11 AM

**Highland Park Pavillion #2*

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



SWEETS



TREATS

SWEETS AND TREATS

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF
EACH MONTH.

OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS WILL
BE: February 1, 2026
Provided By: Evelyn Holsinger

* 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.

**COMMUNITY
LUNCH**



ST LUKES COMMUNITY LUNCH

Feb 11th 12 PM

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



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

4 PM



**ALLEGHENY CHORALE
SPRING CONCERT
APRIL 26, 2026
3 PM**



POTLUCK DINNER

**The next Potluck Dinner is
February 22, 2026
12 PM**



**Church
Picnic**

**Church Picnic
June 28, 2026 11 AM
*Highland Park Pavillion #2***

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