



Kirchenblatt March 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

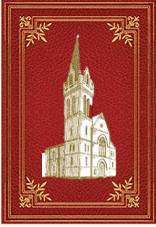
EMAIL: STJAMESALTOONA@GMAIL.COM

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 March 2026

Dear Members of St. James:

Grace, mercy and peace from God, our Father, and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In the season of Lent, we are reminded of Christ's victory over Sin, Death, and the Devil. On Ash Wednesday, we were reminded that Jesus overcame death. On the First Sunday of Lent, we were reminded that Jesus had victory over Satan by conquering all temptations. The rest of the season of Lent will remind us about sin and how Jesus conquered Sin through His Death on the Cross. If we do not confess our sins, we will die in our sins and will suffer condemnation. The first step to asking for forgiveness of sins is to understand that we are sinful by our nature and we can't do otherwise. We are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. With this understanding that we are sinful, we understand that we must repent of our sins. We on our own abilities can't obtain God's righteousness by keeping the Law or by doing good works. The Law will show us that we are sinful and fall short of God's righteousness. We will also see that we can never do enough good works to overcome the evil things that we do. Therefore, there is no salvation through the Law or through good works. We are sinful and cannot save ourselves. We are truly lost and we need to depend on God's Mercy and Grace. Mercy and Grace come through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ's Death on the Cross. This is the whole point of the Lenten season; it is a journey to the cross of Jesus. Only through Jesus and His sacrificial death on the cross, we can obtain forgiveness of sins. To obtain forgiveness of sins, we must first repent of our sins by telling God that we are sorry for our sins and that we need His Grace. This Grace occurs not by what we have done, but what Christ has already done for us on the Cross.

He died in our place so that our sins might be forgiven because our sins were laid on Him. By the Death of Jesus Christ on the Cross, we have forgiveness of sins and by His Resurrection we have eternal life in the Kingdom of God.

This is why our journey to the cross of Jesus during Lent is so important in our spiritual life. We see that Jesus is our Lord and Savior and that Jesus' Death on the Cross overcame Sin, Death, and the Devil and that through Him we have eternal life. Truly Lent is a special time of recentering ourselves on Jesus and our faith in Jesus Christ and growing in our spiritual lives.

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

December 2024

Contributions \$2,345.50
Average Weekly Attendance: 7

December 2025

Contributions \$2,155.50
Average Weekly Attendance:9



INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY

December 1 2025 December 31, 2025

INCOME

Bank Interest	\$0.13
Contributions	
General	\$2,155.50
Designated	\$0.00
Special	\$200.00
Other Income	\$4,000.00
	\$6,355.63

EXPENSES

Pastoral Administration	\$945.60
Worship & Music	\$617.74
Office	\$2,20.08
Custodial & Property	\$1,617.46
Uncategorized	\$102.23
	\$6,103.11

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
Carolyn Feather Judy Dambeck
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
The soul of Carol Weaver



Mar 1—1 John 5:14-15, Psalm 127:1-5

Be with me, Lord, throughout the many tasks of my day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mar 2—Romans 11:33-36, Psalm 103:11-13

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your amazing, boundless love for me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mar 3—Matthew 6:26-27, Psalm 91

Loving Father, thank You for making me Your child through my Baptism. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mar 4—1 John 2:15-18, Psalm 49:11-16

Lord God, ever remind me that You are my dearest treasure. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mar 5—Luke 2:33-35, Psalm 2:7-9

Lord Jesus Christ, thank You for bearing the cross in our stead. In Your name. Amen.

Mar 6—Romans 8:38-39, Psalm 73:23-26

O Lord, do not forsake me. Keep me ever safe from harm until I am home with You in heaven. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mar 7—Revelation 7:13-17, Psalm 27:13-14

Everlasting God, keep me ever watchful for Your return to take me to the splendor of heaven. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mar 8—Hebrews 2:9-18, Psalm 103:19-22

God, our Father, we give thanks and praise to You for destroying our last enemy, death. May we live forever in Your presence. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mar 9—2 Corinthians 4:16-18, Psalm 90

Lord God, thank You for Your everlasting love, guidance, and protection throughout my life. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mar 10—Luke 2:4-16, Psalm 24:7-10

God our Father, be our strength in our journey through life to You in heaven. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mar 11—1 Thessalonians 4:16-18, Psalm 4

Gracious God, send Your angels to guard me when I wake, when I sleep, and when I die. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mar 12—Colossians 1:12-14, Psalm 107:20-22

Loving Father, help me to serve You here until I abide with You in heaven. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mar 13—Acts 1:9-11, Psalm 47:5-9

Mighty Lord, in Your ascension, may we by faith behold our own. In Your name, Jesus. Amen.

Mar 14—Colossians 3:1-17, Psalm 138

Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices, / Who wondrous things has done, in whom His world rejoices (LSB 895:1). Amen.

Mar 15—Matthew 2:9-11, Psalm 72:10-11

Heavenly Father, like the Wise Men, may we evermore be led by and to Jesus. In His name. Amen.

Mar 16—Hebrews 12:1-3, Psalm 139:1-18

Heavenly Father, help me always to look to You for all that I need physically and spiritually. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Mar 17—Hebrews 1:1-13, Psalm 45:2-10

"Beautiful Savior, ... truly I'd love Thee, truly I'd serve Thee" (LSB 537:1). Thank You for saving me. Amen.

Mar 18—John 4:13-14, Psalm 150

Lord God, heavenly Father, accept my praise from a grateful heart for all You have done for me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mar 19—Song of Solomon 2:1-4, Psalm 118:27-29

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, fill my heart with eternal Easter joy! In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mar 20—John 19:1-18, Psalm 22:1-11

Lord God, thank You for the joy of sins forgiven by Christ's death and resurrection. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mar 21—Joshua 24:14-15, Psalm 128

Dear Lord God, always make us a happy family. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mar 22—Mark 4:35-41, Psalm 107:28-31

"Lord, take my hand and lead me upon life's way" (LSB 722:1). In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mar 23—Romans 8:18-31, Psalm 27:7-14

Gracious Lord God, help me to be still, knowing You have everything under control. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mar 24—Matthew 28:19-20, Psalm 71:15-17

Lord God, help others to see Jesus by my words and actions. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mar 25—Luke 1:26-38, Psalm 40:7-11

Lord Jesus, teach us to submit to Your will for us in our lives, knowing all things work together for good for those who love You. Amen.

Mar 26—Philippians 2:10-11, Psalm 96:1-3

Gracious God, in thankfulness may I ever sing my great Redeemer's praise. In His name. Amen.

Mar 27—1 Corinthians 15:19-20, Psalm 25:17-22

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, thank You for the joy of knowing that my Redeemer lives. In His name. Amen.

Mar 28—Isaiah 53, Psalm 98

Forgiving Lord, thank You for laying my sins on Jesus and forgiving them. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mar 29—Matthew 21:1-11, Psalm 118:26-26

Thank You, Lord Jesus, for Your great love for us, shown by redeeming us from sin, death, and the devil by Your death and resurrection. Amen.

Mar 30—John 3:1-16, Psalm 130

Kind Father, thank You for Your wondrous love for me in sending Jesus to save me. In His name. Amen.

Mar 31—Hebrews 11:13-16, Psalm 23

Ever-living God, I yearn for the day when I can live forever with You in my heavenly home. In Jesus' name. Amen.



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



UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES:

Sweets and Treats	Mar 1 10 AM
St Luke's Community Lunch	Mar 11 12 PM
Council Meeting	Mar 9 4 PM
Pot Luck Dinner	Mar 22 12 PM
Allegheny Chorale Concert	Apr 26 3 PM
Church Picnic	Jun 28 11 AM
<i>*Highland Park Pavillion #2</i>	

- **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: March 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

Mar 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
March 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

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

Worship & Music

***Mark Hoover**
*Sharon Lightner
*Shirley Manbeck
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

Finance

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

Property

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

Stewardship/Evangelism

*Betty Boslet
*Sharon Lightner

* Denotes Council Member
Thrivent Rep.—
Betty Boslet