



# *Kirchenblatt April 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 April 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 Easter, we are reminded of Jesus Christ's Resurrection. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is a problem in the modern world, because the world does not want to believe that Jesus rose from the dead. Some in this world believe that the disciples stole the Jesus' body and others believe that Jesus was simply in a coma for three days in the tomb. Before we have to deal with Jesus's Resurrection, we must deal with His Death. Jesus' Death on the cross was a well-known fact of history. Jesus was publicly crucified outside of Jerusalem at Golgotha. No one disputes this fact. But the problem is that the world sees that the Jesus' Death was because Jesus was a victim of society. But I believe that Jesus was no victim. Jesus specifically decided to lay down His life for those who believe in Him. He died for the sins of His followers. How do I know that Jesus was not a victim? Because when Judas and temple guards came to the garden to arrest Jesus, they were confronted by Jesus and when He asked them who they were seeking, they said "Jesus of Nazareth." At this point Jesus said, "I am He" and at that moment all the soldiers stepped back and fell to the ground. This was an indication that Jesus had the power to disarm this group with just a word. Also in the Scriptures, it is said that Jesus said that if He wanted to that He could call a legion of angels to come and protect Him. If Jesus was not a victim, then He laid down His life willingly, this is why Jesus said, "I lay down My life for My friends and I have the power to lay down My life and the power to pick it up again." A victim does not lay down his life, but the man who has power can lay down his life for his friends and be a ransom for many. We also know that there is no one in the history of Rome that ever recovered from a Roman crucifixion. The one thing about Romans was that they certainly knew how to execute prisoners and Jesus was a prisoner and He was crucified. To make sure that Jesus was dead, the centurion in charge of the crucifixion used a Roman battlefield technique to make sure that Jesus or any enemy found on the battlefield would never survive by using the Roman death blow of taking a spear and plunging it into the left side of the body piercing the heart and kill the person instantly. It also was well known that Jesus also was buried in the tomb very close to the place where He was crucified.

To make sure that Jesus was dead and to make sure that no one stole His body Pontius Pilate sealed the tomb and put a contingency of soldiers there to guard the tomb.

On the third day after Jesus' crucifixion, there was a great earthquake and the stone covering the tomb was moved by an Angel as Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were approaching the tomb. These events terrified the soldiers guarding the tomb and brought fear into these women. The Angel told the women "don't be afraid" because Jesus was no longer in the tomb because He had rose from the dead. Jesus' Resurrection means that Jesus was no longer dead and He was very much alive. But as the women went to find the disciples, they also met Jesus. Jesus told them, "do not be afraid and to go and tell My brothers and sisters that He had been raised from the dead and to go to Galilee to see Him there.

I believe this message from Jesus was not only meant for His disciples and for Mary Magdalene and for the other Mary, but I believe this message was also meant for us. We do not need to be afraid, because Jesus has conquered sin, death, and the devil. We have nothing to fear, because we are free from our sins by Jesus' death on the cross and we have received salvation. If Jesus rose from the dead, he promises us that He will also give us the same type of spiritual body that He has and that we too will rise from the dead just as He did and that all the powers of evil are defeated in the name of Jesus Christ. We also must be like these women and go and tell our brothers and sisters in Christ and the world about all that Jesus has done for us. That Jesus was willing to die for our sins and He was resurrected for our salvation and that we have eternal life with Him in His Kingdom. We also must go to Galilee to see Him. Our Galilee is the Church. We must go to church to see Jesus. Each Sunday we stand before an altar that has the crucified Jesus on it, and we see His picture above the altar. During our services, we worship and praise God and praise Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior because of His victory over sin, death, and the devil. If you want to see Jesus just come to church and believe me, you will see Him there with all of His brothers and sisters in Christ worshipping and praying to Jesus.

I pray that you will continue to have the joy of Jesus Christ in your heart during this season of Easter. 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**

**January 2025**

Contributions \$195.25  
Average Weekly Attendance: 8

**January 2026**

Contributions \$465.00  
Average Weekly Attendance: 8



**INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY**

**January 1 2026 January 31, 2026**

**INCOME**

Bank Interest	\$0.00
Contributions	
General	\$465.00
Designated	\$0.00
Special	\$0.00
Other Income	\$4,000.00
	\$4,465.00

**EXPENSES**

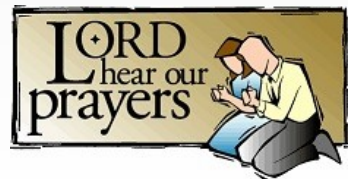
Pastoral Administration	\$630.88
Worship & Music	\$632.38
Office	\$1,278.47
Custodial & Property	\$3,836.00
Uncategorized	\$0.00
	\$6,377.73

*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 Carol Weaver



Apr 1—Luke 22:47-51, Psalm 14

Holy Jesus, help me to resist the riches of the world and crave Your Word with an honest heart, that I may love You, now and forever. Amen.

Apr 2—1 John 5:5-9, Psalm 116

Holy Spirit, our Paraclete, thank You for precious water, Word, and blood, which point our troubled hearts to Jesus. In His name. Amen.

Apr 3—Genesis 22:1-13, Psalm 18:1-17

Heavenly Father, when life's circumstances appear impossible, help me trust that You will always provide and that in Jesus' sacrifice I am always blessed. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Apr 4—Exodus 14:13-22, Psalm 66

Lord God, almighty Father, when I am paralyzed with fear, help me to be silent and still in Your baptismal promise to me. Christ is risen from the dead! In Jesus' name. Amen.

Apr 5—John 20:11-17, Psalm 6

Lord Jesus, when I am tearful because of life's troubles, give me renewed hope and increased joy by Your resurrection from the dead. Amen.

Apr 6—John 11:32-44, Psalm 30

Resurrected Lord Jesus, when my hearing is dull or distracted, awaken me from my slumber with Your mighty voice and Holy Word, that I may live with You forever. Amen.

Apr 7—Genesis 41:39-40, Psalm 37:1-7, 23-24

Heavenly Father, when life feels unfair and hopeless, help me learn that You work all things for the good of those who love You. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Apr 8—1 Samuel 25:23-25, Psalm 16

Lord Jesus, I am often foolish and sometimes wicked like Nabal. Help me to throw myself in harm's way, like Abigail, to bring peace, calm, and deliverance to others. Amen.

Apr 9—2 Samuel 9:1-10, Psalm 42

Heavenly Father, when I become disgruntled, help me to remember that I possess, by faith, something better than anything in this life. In my resurrected Lord, I have the promise of daily provision, the forgiveness of sins, and eternal life to come. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Apr 10—Ruth 3:7-13, Psalm 8

Lord God, when I despise my lot in life or become thankless, raise me up, as You did Boaz and Ruth, to serve others just as You did for me through Your Son, Jesus, our Redeemer. In His name. Amen.

Apr 11—Daniel 6:10-22, Psalm 7:1-5, 9-17

Dear Jesus, when others despise me for believing in You, may Your death on the cross and the resurrection keep me always calm, levelheaded, and reverent before Your holy name. Amen.

Apr 12—John 20:24-29, Psalm 27

Lord Jesus, my Lord and my God, when I am tempted to deny Your life, death, or resurrection, open my ears again to Your Word, that I may worship You as Thomas did. Amen.

Apr 13—Daniel 3:1-25, Psalm 11

Lord Jesus, when I am not as fearless or steadfast, pull me closer to You that I may act in ways that please You and bring others to faith in You. Amen.

Apr 14—1 Samuel 20:27-34, Psalm 54

Lord Jesus, when I observe the needs of others, help me, like Jonathan, to do my best to protect them, revealing how wonderfully You saved us. Amen.

Apr 15—Luke 19:1-10, Psalm 32

Lord Jesus, I am not always curious; sometimes I am sinful, lethargic, and anxious. Forgive the sin that weighs me down and grant me new inquisitive joy by the power of Your wonderful resurrection. Amen.

Apr 16—2 Kings 4:18-37, Psalm 10

Lord Jesus, forgive me when I blame You or others for painful circumstances outside my control. Help me to trust You and Your Word, as the Shunammite woman did the word of Elisha. Amen.

Apr 17—Numbers 13:26—14:7, Psalm 1

Heavenly Father, give me faith like Caleb and Joshua to move mountains. In the face of evil men, make me steadfast to always trust Your promises, now and always. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Apr 18—Judges 16:21-30, Psalm 103:1-14

Lord God, when I have forgotten You, please remember, forgive, and heal me through the cross and resurrection of Jesus that I may praise You forever. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Apr 19—John 21:15-18, Psalm 80

Lord Jesus, when I am tempted to deny You before others, help me not to bring shame to You. By the power of Your resurrection, let me boldly confess You to all the world. Amen.

Apr 20—Mark 10:46-52, Psalm 34

Resurrected Lord Jesus, when I forget the breadth of Your love and eternal care for all Your children, help me to cry out like Bartimaeus, because You love me, died for me, and promise everlasting life. Amen.

Apr 21—Luke 7:1-10, Psalm 47

Lord Jesus, forgive me when I presume You will take care of my problems the way I would like. Grant me true humility to simply ask according to Your will, for You always intercede to the Father on my behalf. Amen.

Apr 22—John 3:1-16, Psalm 139:1-14

Dear Lord Jesus, I am blind to my own needs, as was Nicodemus. Grant me new birth from above by the Holy Spirit to see myself rightly in the light of Your grace and Your forgiveness of all my sins. Amen.

Apr 23—John 19:25-27, Psalm 55

Dear Lord Jesus, my Redeemer, when people in my life fail me, help me to trust Your perfect will and eternal Word, knowing that You work all things for my eternal good and salvation. Amen.

Apr 24—Job 19:23-27, Psalm 19

Dear Lord Jesus, my Redeemer, when people in my life fail me, help me to trust Your perfect will and eternal Word, knowing that You work all things for my eternal good and salvation. Amen.

Apr 25—Esther 7:1-7, Psalm 22

Heavenly Father, at certain times and in unique ways, You delivered Your people from destruction. Save me from presumptuous pride and from all my sins through the resurrection of Your only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name I pray. Amen.

Apr 26—Luke 24:13-31, Psalm 63

Dear resurrected Lord Jesus, though we are often timid, troubled, or doubting, You still meet us through Your Holy Word and Sacrament. Thank You for the means of grace, which make our hearts burn so that we may reflect it to everyone. Amen.

Apr 27—John 7:1-8, Psalm 69:1-16

Dear Jesus, I am prone to jealousy and envy. Forgive me for such arrogance, which wars against peace, joy, and brotherly love. As You filled James with renewed love and humble faith, so renew mine that I reflect You to everyone. Amen.

Apr 28—Acts 9:1-9, Psalm 62

Lord God, our heavenly Father, grace and salvation are found in You alone! Thank You for sending Your only Son, Jesus Christ, to save us from being Your enemies by His blood and resurrection from the dead. Hear us, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Apr 29—2 Kings 5:1-15, Psalm 46

Heavenly Father, when I become unthankful, help me to remember Naaman, an enemy You healed and raised to new life. Raise me by the resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, in whom I am baptized, to serve Him joyfully today and always. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Apr 30—Mark 15:42-45, Psalm 84

Lord Jesus, You had no house, no home, no friendly tomb, but only what a stranger gave (see LSB 430:6). Help me steward all things that You have given me for Your glory and the good of my brothers and sisters in Christ. 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](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 MAY ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS,  
WEDNESDAY APRIL, 15.***



## UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES:

St Luke's Community Lunch	Apr 8 12 PM
Potluck Dinner	Apr 19 12 PM
Allegheny Chorale Concert	Apr 26 3 PM
Sweets and Treats	May 3 10 AM
Council Meeting	Jun 8 4 PM
Church Picnic	Jun 28 11 AM
<i>*Highland Park Pavillion #2</i>	

- **NOTE: Sweets and Treats is canceled for April due to it falling on Easter Sunday!**

### Church Picnic

Planning for the Church Picnic has begun. You can use the sign up sheet on the bulletin board.

Church Picnic will be held June 28, 2026 at Highland Park, Pavillion #2.

Mass 11 AM Lunch 12 PM

## SWEETS AND TREATS

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF  
EACH MONTH.

**OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS WILL BE: May 3, 2026**  
**Provided By: Alda Hetrick**  
**(Memorial to Carol Weaver)**

\* 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**  
**March 22, 2026**  
**12 PM**



**NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**MEETING**  
**June 8, 2026**  
**4 PM**

**COMMUNITY**  
**LUNCH**



**ST LUKES COMMUNITY LUNCH**

**Apr 8 12 PM**

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

Allegheny  
Chorale  presents

FREE TO THE PUBLIC



**CELEBRATING WITH SONG  
250 YEARS OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE**



*Sunday, April 26, 2026 at 3pm  
St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church, Altoona*

*Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at 7pm  
First Presbyterian Church, Tyrone*

*Deborah Estright, Director*

**\* Congregation is asked to bring cookies for the  
reception after the concert.**

***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

Christian Education/  
Social Ministry

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

Worship & Music

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

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

\* Denotes Council Member  
Thrivent Rep.—  
Betty Boslet