



Kirchenblatt June 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.**

On this date in history (June 25, 1530), 487 years ago, the *Augsburg Confession* was presented by our Lutheran forefathers to Emperor Charles V.

Dr. Martin Luther, with a price on his head ever since his famous stand before the emperor at Worms in 1521, corresponded with the Lutheran princes and theologians from the Castle Coburg by a sort of pony-express arrangement. This arrangement was meant to protect the great reformer. Even Luther's most powerful friends were not sure they could protect him outside the borders of Saxony.

Meanwhile, at Augsburg, Luther's friend, Melanchthon, gave a clear expression of Luther's Biblical teachings in a document signed by the pastors, princes and theologians of the Lutheran Reformation.

The *Augsburg Confession* set forth the clear teachings of the Bible – *by grace alone – through faith in Christ alone – by Scripture alone*. It declared that the differences between Luther and Rome could not be settled by compromise, but only by a return to the Scriptures. The break with Rome was now inevitable and would prove to be irreversible.

Sadly, after Luther died in 1546, Melanchthon lost his nerve. He made some alterations to the wording of the *Augsburg Confession* in an attempt to unite the Lutheran and Swiss Reformed churches through compromise on such matters as the Real Presence of our Lord's body and blood in Holy Communion. (The Lutherans confessed that the true body and blood of Christ are really present in the sacrament; the Reformed said the bread and wine were mere symbols of the body and blood).

The genuine Lutherans rejected these changes and held fast to Luther's pure teachings as expressed in the original document presented to the Emperor on June 25, 1530.

To this day, you may see some old Lutheran churches with the abbreviation *U.A.C.* on the cornerstone. This stands for: *Unaltered Augsburg Confession*. This statement of faith, along with the other creeds or confessions of the Lutheran Church are included in *The Book of Concord – 1580*, also known as *The Lutheran Confessions*.

These confessions include: The three universal creeds – the *Apostles'*, *Nicene* and *Athanasian Creeds*, *The Augsburg Confession*, *The Apology (Defense) of the Augsburg Confession*, *The Large & Small Catechisms of Dr. Martin Luther*, *The Smalcald Articles* and *The Formula of Concord*.

Our pastors and teachers pledge themselves at the outset of their ministries to teach in accordance with these Confessions *because* they are a correct expression of Bible teachings. God grant us the faith and courage of our forefathers to resist the countless compromises of our own times and to stand firmly on the Scriptures.

Contribution & Attendance Summary

March 2025

Contributions \$906
Average Weekly Attendance: 9

March 2026

Contributions \$1,200
Average Weekly Attendance: 8



INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY

March 1 2026 March 31, 2026

INCOME

Bank Interest	\$0.00
Contributions	
General	\$1,200.00
Designated	\$0.00
Special	\$0.00
Other Income	\$4,000.00
	\$5,200.00

EXPENSES

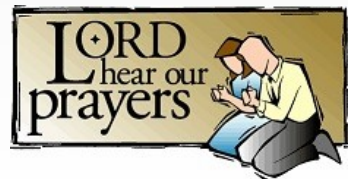
Pastoral Administration	\$449.48
Worship & Music	\$632.38
Office	\$1,184.50
Custodial & Property	\$4,011.09
Uncategorized	\$71.08
	\$6,348.53

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



Jun 1—Genesis 1:1-5, Psalm 19:1-6

Creator of light, You are our light and our life. Let Your Word pour on our hearts both light and life daily as we turn to You for all needs of body and soul. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jun 2—Genesis 3:1-7, Psalm 27:1-5

Gracious God, Your eternal light penetrates the darkness brought about by our sin. Thank You for Your grace given in Jesus, which covers our sin and restores our light of hope. In His name. Amen.

Jun 3—Exodus 34:29-35, Psalm 4

Jesus, thank You for removing the veil and allowing us to come into Your presence. Amen.

Jun 4—Isaiah 30:18-26, Psalm 44:1-8

Jesus, thank You for the promise You gave Your faithful people and for the fulfillment we now live in as Your children. Amen.

Jun 5—John 1:1-5, Psalm 90:7-12

Holy Spirit, let the light of truth convict me of sin and lead me in the right way of living. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jun 6—Luke 23:44-49, Psalm 56

Jesus, light of the world, no power of darkness is greater than You. You are victorious over all things, even death. Praise the Lord! Amen.

Jun 7—Matthew 5:14-16, Psalm 49:14-18

Jesus, let Your light shine on us so we can be the light of the world in what we say, think, and do. Amen.

Jun 8—2 Corinthians 3:7-18, Psalm 43

Lord Jesus, we praise You because You removed our covering of shame and opened the way so all can see God and live. Amen.

Jun 9—Revelation 22:3-5, Psalm 97

Jesus, we look forward to an eternity of endless light in Your presence. Keep us faithful to You and Your Word until that day. Amen.

Jun 10—Philippians 1:1-6, Psalm 138

Jesus, each person I encounter is someone You created. Help me love them. I especially thank You for all believers, even the ones I have a hard time getting along with. Amen.

Jun 11—Philippians 1:7-11, Psalm 111

Jesus, I need Your grace and mercy every hour. Help me to freely give the grace I have freely received. Amen.

Jun 12—Philippians 1:12-30, Psalm 12

Lord, empower us to live out the message of the Gospel so that others may know You through the way we live and the words we say. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jun 13—Philippians 2:1-11, Psalm 133

Jesus, You have united all of us through Your blood. When we are tempted to compare, compete, and divide, bring us together in humility and love. Amen.

Jun 14—Philippians 2:12-30, Psalm 115:12-18

Jesus, help me live today without complaining or arguing, striving for peace with my family members, coworkers, and friends so that others take notice and You are glorified. Amen.

Jun 15—Philippians 3:1-11, Psalm 16:7-11

Jesus, above all else, I want to know You and the power of being joined in Your life, death, and resurrection. Amen.

Jun 16—Philippians 3:12-16, Psalm 136:1-9

Jesus, You climbed Calvary's mountain so that eternal life could be mine. Keep my eyes fixed on You as I press on to take hold of that most precious gift. Amen.

Jun 17—Philippians 3:17—4:1, Psalm 141

Father, Thy kingdom come. May I be Your faithful representative here on earth. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jun 18—Philippians 4:1-5, Psalm 145:1-9

Jesus, my heart rejoices in You! Make me a person of peace and rejoicing, content and secure in my Father's care. Amen.

Jun 19—Philippians 4:6-7, Psalm 118:1-9

God, You promise to provide all that I need. Help me to trust You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jun 20—Philippians 4:8-13, Psalm 116:5-14

Jesus, help me capture every thought and submit it to Your truth, discarding what is false or unkind and embracing what is good and true. Amen.

Jun 21—Philippians 4:14-23, Psalm 91:9-16

Jesus, I lack nothing in You! Open my heart and hands to fully receive Your good gifts and to freely pass them along to others. Amen.

Jun 22—Mark 4:26-32, Psalm 89:1-8, 14-18

Lord, Thy kingdom come. You are at work. Help me be aware of Your working presence and join with You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jun 23—Habakkuk 3:17-19, Psalm 112

Father, redeem our pain for Your glory. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Jun 24—Luke 1:57-66, Psalm 40:1-5

Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jun 25—2 Timothy 4:1-5, Psalm 5

Almighty God, when I hear something that sounds good but isn't scriptural and true, let the truth of Your Word correct, admonish, and restore me. Keep me in the one true faith. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jun 26—1 Corinthians 1:4-9, Psalm 36:5-9

God, Your faithfulness continues from generation to generation. Keep me faithful as I seek to love those whom You place in my life. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jun 27—1 Corinthians 1:10-17, Psalm 28:6-9

Jesus, help me to pursue peace within the family of believers so that we would be faithful witnesses. Amen.

Jun 28—1 Corinthians 1:18-25, Psalm 94:1-15

Jesus, let me be a "fool" so others may see Your great wisdom and love. Amen.

Jun 29—1 Corinthians 1:26-31, Psalm 70:1-5

God, in Your wisdom, You turn our folly upside down. Help us fully believe, trust, and live in Your full wisdom, boasting only in Your power. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jun 30—Isaiah 9:1-7, Psalm 30

Come, Lord Jesus, and bring about the eternal morning of rejoicing! 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 JUNE ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS,
THURSDAY MAY, 15.***



UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES:

**Sweets and Treats
Council Meeting
Church Picnic**

**Jun 7 10 AM
Jun 8 4 PM
Jun 28 11 AM**

****Highland Park Pavillion #2
Worship in the Park with Bethany
*Highland Park Pavillion #2
Worship in the Park with Bethany
*Highland Park Pavillion #2***

**July 26 11 AM
Aug 23 11 AM**



SWEETS AND TREATS

**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF
EACH MONTH.**

OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS WILL BE: June 7, 2026

Provided By: Bill and Judy Dambeck

* 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!



The next Potluck Dinner is

, 2026

12 PM



**NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL
MEETING**

June 8, 2026

4 PM



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

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