



**St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**June 28, 2026**

**St James Sunday  
Church Picnic**

**Welcome**

We welcome all visitors who come to worship with us today. We are delighted that you have come to share in the prayer and praise of our Lord and invite you to return and add your voice to ours in holy celebration. If you have a special need or prayer, please share them with the worship leader or voice them during the intercessional prayers. Before you leave us today, we ask that you please introduce yourself to the worship leader.

**Pulpit Supply: Mark Hoover  
Church Organist/Choir Director: PATRICIA McCONNELL  
Administrative Assistant: Tim Surkovich**

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**St. James Mission Statement: To make disciples of Jesus Christ through Word and Sacrament by the Holy Spirit.**



*St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church*



## **St James Sunday Church Picnic 2026**

Welcome and Announcements:

Today we rejoice and give thanks for the arrival of summer. We celebrate God's glorious creation, we express gratitude for a season of accomplishments in school, work and home. We offer thanks to God for his gift of summer time so that we might enjoy vacations, time for special interests and rest.

Prelude:

Fairest Lord Jesus

arr. Fred Bock

# *We Gather*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*An extended silence may be kept.*

Merciful God,

**We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, and Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

\*GATHERING SONG:

God Is Here!

ELW 526

\*NEXT PAGE

# God Is Here!

1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer  
 2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long  
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's  
 4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of

praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure  
 need of grace; here are ta - ble, and pul - pit;  
 flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en;  
 change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;

what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the  
 here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -  
 Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants  
 help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's

world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts  
 ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,  
 of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore  
 ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;

wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.  
 here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.  
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.  
 we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Let us pray.

**C: O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### *We Listen to the Word*

**First Reading:**

**Jeremiah 28:5-9**

A reading from Jeremiah.

<sup>5</sup> The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD, <sup>6</sup> and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD fulfill the words that you have prophesied and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD and all the exiles. <sup>7</sup> But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. <sup>8</sup> The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. <sup>9</sup> As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet."

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm**

**Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18**

<sup>1</sup> Your love, O LORD, forever will I sing; from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

<sup>2</sup> **For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is established forever; you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.**

<sup>3</sup> "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

<sup>4</sup> **'I will establish your line forever, and preserve your throne for all generations.'**"

<sup>15</sup> Happy are the people who know the festal shout! They walk, O LORD, in the light of your presence.

<sup>16</sup> **They rejoice daily in your name; they are jubilant in your righteousness.**

<sup>17</sup> For you are the glory of their strength, and by your favor our might is exalted.

<sup>18</sup> **Truly, our shield belongs to the LORD; our king to the Holy One of Israel.**

**\*GOSPEL:**

**Matthew 10:40-42**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

[Jesus said to the twelve:] <sup>40</sup> "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. <sup>41</sup> Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, <sup>42</sup> and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

**The Gospel of the Lord  
Praise to You O Christ**

**\*SERMON**

## *We Respond to the Word*

\*Hymn of the Day:

ELW 676

### Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak



1 Lord, speak to us, that we may speak in  
2 Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead the  
3 Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach the  
4 Oh, fill us with your full - ness, Lord, un -



liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so  
wan-d'ring and the wa - v'ring feet; oh, feed us, Lord, that  
pre - cious truths which you im - part; and wing our words, that  
til our ver - y hearts o'er - flow in kin - dling thought and



let us seek your stray - ing chil - dren, lost and lone.  
we may feed your hun - g'ring ones with man - na sweet.  
they may reach the hid - den depths of man - y a heart.  
glow - ing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.

## **Welcoming of New Member to the Congregation Presentation of New Member**

P: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for this woman, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new member into the life and ministry of this congregation.

Tina Miller has come to our congregation by the grace of the Holy Spirit to join our Saint James' family.

P: In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Sister in Christ,

do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

**Tina:** I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: People of God,

do you promise to support and pray for our new member in her life in Christ?

**C: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

P: Let us welcome our sister in Christ to the Saint James community of faith.

**C: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

Let us pray,

Stir up in Tina the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. Amen.

## **\*Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## ***We Offer Our Gifts***

### **\*Offering Prayer:**

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts; ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the One who gave Himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### **\*Sharing of the Peace**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

## Prayers of Intercession

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

*A brief silence.*

Faithful God, establish your church to offer welcome and proclaim your peace. Nourish us so we can proclaim your hope to the world. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Creator God, bring life to places experiencing drought, deforestation, and pollution. Help us to cultivate and care for the natural world around us.

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Loving God, bring an end to conflict and division (*places experiencing division may be named*). Sustain the work of prophets in our time, and work through world leaders to foster understanding, justice, and peace.

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Provider God, give your children what they need physically, emotionally, and spiritually. (*We pray especially for . . .*) Bless caregivers as they show God's hospitality through their generous service. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Living God, lead us from death to life. Inspire new ministries and endeavors, renew established ones, and strengthen our welcoming presence to our neighbors. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Eternal God, we remember the faithful departed of this community and of the wider church and world. We give thanks for saints of all times and places (*like Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons whom the church remembers today*). God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior.

**Amen.**

\* The Offertory Prayer:

P: Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

\* The Great Thanksgiving:

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we might receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper. For it is our Lord Jesus, who in the night in which he was betrayed took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after the supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me".

Lord remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

\*The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

P: Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as you once revealed yourself to your disciples.

### **Communion**

- Post Communion Blessing:

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen.**

- \* Post Communion Prayer:

P: Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

**C: Amen.**

### *We Are Sent*

#### \*Benediction and Blessing

P: Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: (Grace is said for our picnic lunch.)

\*Sending Song:  
Recessional

Savior, Again to Your Dear Name  
Seek Ye First

ELW 534  
arr. Fred Bock

## Savior, Again to Your Dear Name

1 Sav - ior, a - gain to your dear name we raise  
2 Grant us your peace up - on our home - ward way;  
3 Grant us your peace, Lord, through the com - ing night;  
4 Grant us your peace through - out our earth - ly life,

with one ac - cord our part - ing hymn of praise;  
with you be - gan, with you shall end the day;  
for us trans - form its dark - ness in - to light,  
our balm in sor - row, and our stay in strife;

once more we bless you ere our wor - ship cease,  
guard all the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,  
Keep us from harm and dan - ger till the dawn;  
then, when your voice shall bid our con - flict cease,

then, low - ly bend - ing, wait your word of peace.  
that in this house have called up - on your name.  
your eve - ning pres - ence prom - ise to your own.  
call us, O Lord, to your e - ter - nal peace.

# CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**IN THE CASE OF A PASTORAL EMERGENCY,**  
In the event of a Pastoral Emergency, please contact Pastor Eli Hess  
Work: 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)  
On Facebook—St. James Lutheran Church—Altoona, PA



## **Our Prayer List:**

Tim Surkovich

Jeff Bickel

Bill Wilt

Bob Holsinger Sr

Staff Sgt John Hiles

Donna Foster

Donna Wilt

Carolyn Feather

Bill Dambeck

Judy Dambeck

The soul and family of Debbie Thomas

The soul and family of Debra Morgan

The soul of Marian "Toots" Holsinger

The soul of Deborah Manbeck

The soul of Sylvia Malsatzki

The soul of Carol Weaver

(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.)

Those serving in our military.



## **UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES:**

<b>Church Picnic</b>	<b>Jun 28 11 AM</b>
<b><i>*Highland Park Pavillion #2</i></b>	
<b>Sweets and Treats</b>	<b>July 5 10 AM</b>
<b>Worship in the Park with Bethany</b>	<b>July 26 11 AM</b>
<b><i>*Highland Park Pavillion #2</i></b>	
<b>Worship in the Park with Bethany</b>	<b>Aug 23 11 AM</b>
<b><i>*Highland Park Pavillion #2</i></b>	
<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Sep 8 4 PM</b>
<b>Potluck Dinner</b>	<b>Sep 13 12 PM</b>

***\*WE WILL RETURN TO THE SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOM  
JULY 5TH! FOR WORSHIP SERVICE***





## NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

September 8, 2026

5:30 PM

## SWEETS AND TREATS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH.

OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS WILL BE:

July 5, 2026

Provided By: Tina Miller

\* 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

Our Next Pot Luck Dinner  
will be

September 13, 2026

*Welcome Tina Miller as a new member of  
the St James Congregation.*



*Please join us to celebrate the  
50th Year Anniversary of Ordination  
of*

*Rev. Hans-Peter Helmers*

*A Church Service will take place at 600 P.M.*

**July      1      2026**



*St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church  
158 N. Hoernerstown Rd.  
Hummelstown, PA 17036*

*Dinner to follow in the church Fellowship Hall*

Dear brothers and sisters  
in Christ called St. James  
Evangelical Lutheran Church.

You have been a blessing  
to me in God calling me by  
the Holy Spirit and the  
gospel to a ministry of  
word and sacrament.

I invite you to join  
the congregation I am  
presently serving in the  
celebration of the 50 years  
the Holy Spirit has blessed  
me in my calling to ordained  
ministry

Rev. Hans-Peter  
Helmers



# **Worship in the Park**

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

***July 26 11 AM***

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

***Aug 23 11 AM***

***Worship in the Park!***





**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



*St. James Evangelical  
Lutheran Church*



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