



Kirchenblatt July 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.**

Every age has its troubles. Jesus warned His disciples that it would be so (John 16:33; Mark 14:7).

Today, we live in an age of incredible material prosperity. We enjoy peace, security and wealth. We also live in a time of unprecedented isolation, made possible by our digital, screen-based economy and social structure, furthered dramatically by the training we all had in isolation during the pandemic. We have so much at our fingertips, and we need so little from each other.

No generation has been more affected by these shifts than today's children and teenagers. You have probably seen the dire statistics: academic setbacks due to months or years of remote learning, screen time hours approaching the number of waking hours, time spent in person with friends plummeting, loneliness and anxiety on the rise. Christian youth looking to live faithful lives may feel the isolation particularly keenly — a recent study from Pew Research found that only 45% of Generation Z identifies as Christian, compared, for example, with 72% of those ages 50–64.

Every age has its troubles. Young people today are facing very different troubles than their grandparents did — as well as many of the same ones.

This summer's LCMS Youth Gathering planners selected the theme “ENDURE,” based on Hebrews 12:1–3, with all this in mind.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Consider Him who endured from sinners such hostility against Himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

“Consider Him who endured.” The troubles of each generation may be vastly different, but the answer to them is the same: Look to Jesus.

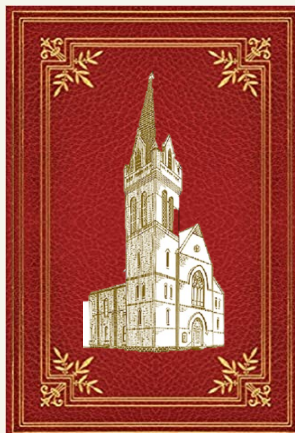
From July 19–23, thousands of youth will gather in New Orleans for learning, Bible study, service projects and fellowship, all organized around this theme of Christian endurance. With this issue of *LW*, we wanted to broaden this conversation, sharing articles around the theme of Christian endurance with our regular readers. We are also providing a copy of this issue to every youth at the Gathering.

Older Lutherans, we invite you to encourage a young person in your midst as they look ahead to the long race set before them. Young Lutherans, we encourage you to talk to an older person at church about the challenges they have faced. Perhaps your challenges are different, but the source of your endurance is the same: Christ and the community of His church.

Looking to Christ,

Stacey Eising

Editor “The Lutheran Witness July 2025”



Contribution & Attendance Summary

April 2025

Contributions \$0.00
Average Weekly Attendance: 9

April 2026

Contributions \$956.00
Average Weekly Attendance:8

INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY

April 1 2026 April 30, 2026

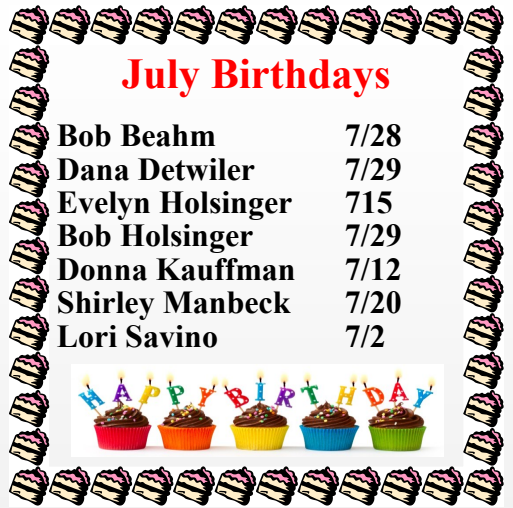
INCOME

Bank Interest	\$0.00
Contributions	
General	\$956.00
Designated	\$0.00
Special	\$0.00
Other Income	\$4,000.00
	\$4956.00

EXPENSES

Pastoral Administration	\$304.48
Worship & Music	\$632.38
Office	\$1,031.54
Custodial & Property	\$424.50
Uncategorized	\$
	\$2,392.40

July Birthdays



Bob Beahm	7/28
Dana Detwiler	7/29
Evelyn Holsinger	7/15
Bob Holsinger	7/29
Donna Kauffman	7/12
Shirley Manbeck	7/20
Lori Savino	7/2

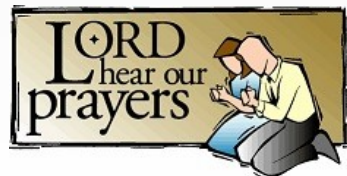


Remember In Your Prayers

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



Jul 1—Isaiah 55:1-7, Psalm 42

Heavenly Father, thank You for daily quenching my spiritual thirst. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jul 2—Isaiah 12, Psalm 66

Dear Jesus, may I never forget but, rather, always appreciate the awesome deeds You have done and continue to do for me. Amen.

Jul 3—Matthew 25-30, Psalm 23

Thank You, Jesus, for inviting me to rest in You. Give me peace, knowing You have freely given me eternal life. Amen.

Jul 4—Philippians 3:2-11, Psalm 67

Dear Jesus, I am totally dependent upon You. Thank You for all that You do for me. Amen.

Jul 5—John 4:1-26, Psalm 95

Dear Jesus, continue to give me a longing to worship You. Amen.

Jul 6—Mark 6:30-34, Psalm 131

Dear Jesus, I did not realize how exhausted I am! May I never get so distracted by the everyday busyness of life that I fail to spend time with You. Amen.

Jul 7—Matthew 14:22-33, Psalm 93

Dear Holy Spirit, daily strengthen and preserve my faith in Jesus so that it will not falter. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jul 8—Matthew 16:24-28, Psalm 15

Dear Jesus, thank You for the privilege and joy of coming after You. Amen.

Jul 9—Matthew 19:13-15, Psalm 127

Dear Jesus, please use me to bring children to You. Amen.

Jul 10—Matthew 19:16-22, Psalm 103

Thank You, Jesus, for the invitation and faith to follow You all the days of my life. May I enjoy doing so. Amen.

Jul 11—Matthew 25:14-23, Psalm 100

Heavenly Father, thank You for the eternal joy I have in Your Son, Jesus. In His name I pray. Amen.

Jul 12—Matthew 22:1-14, Psalm 96

Heavenly Father, it is by Your grace that I accept Your invitation to the marriage supper of Your Son, Jesus. In His Name. Amen.

Jul 13—Revelation 22:14-21, Psalm 8

Please, come, Lord Jesus. Yes, come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Jul 14—Matthew 25:31-40, Psalm 24

Thank You, Jesus, for the inheritance awaiting me. Amen.

Jul 15—Matthew 28:16-20, Psalm 145:1-9

Dear Jesus, open my eyes to the opportunities to disciple others. Amen.

Jul 16—Matthew 5:21-26, Psalm 32

Heavenly Father, having reconciled me to Yourself, grant me Your grace to be reconciled with others. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jul 17—Matthew 5:38-42, Psalm 3

Jesus, grant me grace to glorify You in how I relate to people in my life. Amen.

Jul 18—Matthew 6:5-8, Psalm 141

Thank You, heavenly Father, for inviting me to pray, for hearing my prayers, and for responding with rewards. May I always trust that You know best! In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jul 19—Matthew 9:9-13, Psalm 119:65-72

Thank You, Jesus, for having mercy on me. Amen.

Jul 20—Matthew 18:15-20, Psalm 133

Dear Jesus, thank You for forgiving me. Give me the grace to forgive those who sin against me. Amen.

Jul 21—Matthew 20:1-16, Psalm 90

Thank You, Jesus, for calling me to work in Your vineyard and for the wonderful relationship with fellow workers. Amen.

Jul 22—Mark 5:1-20, Psalm 145:1-21

Thank You, Jesus, for Your mercy and for all that You have done and continue to do for me. Inspire me to share my testimonies, all to Your glory. In Your name I pray. Amen.

Jul 23—Mark 5:25-34, Psalm 85

Thank You, Jesus, for giving me Your peace, which surpasses all understanding. Amen.

Jul 24—Mark 10:46-52, Psalm 30

Dear Jesus, thank You for making me spiritually well so that I see You through faith and follow You. Amen.

Jul 25—Luke 14:7-11, Psalm 138

Jesus, forgive my sin of pride so that I may truly be humble before You. Aome.

Jul 26—Luke 15:1-7, Psalm 1

Jesus, please use me to go after those who are lost so that they may be found by You. Amen.

Jul 27—John 6:66-71, Psalm 130

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

Jul 28—John 8:1-11, Psalm 51

Heavenly Father, have mercy on me for Jesus' sake! Amen.

Jul 29—John 16:5-11, Psalm 119:169-176

Thank You, Jesus, for sending the Helper, the Holy Spirit, into my life. Amen.

Jul 30—John 14:1-8, Psalm 91

Dear Jesus, with great joy I anticipate the place You have prepared for me. I look forward to seeing You face to face. Amen.

Jul 31—Matthew 25:41-46, Psalm 16

Thank You, heavenly Father, for giving me eternal life through Your Son. In His. Amen.

YOUR DAILY *prayer*



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 AUGUST ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS,
WEDNESDAY JULY, 15.***



UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES:

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

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



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!



The next Potluck Dinner is
September 13, 2026
12 PM



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



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!





*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



St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church



is a

*Blessed
Community*



PEACE
BE WITH
YOU

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