



Kirchenblatt August 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 August 2026

Dear Members of St. James:

Grace, mercy and peace from God, our Father, and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I wanted to let you in on a big Christian secret. That big secret is God loves you. The world and many other forces do not want you to know this secret, because it will destroy the world's and other spiritual forces' ability to control you and to meditate you. The truth is that God is very passionate about loving you. Jesus Christ, God's Son, proved that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son to die for us and for you in particular. How do I know that God loves you. Because God knew you from the foundation of the world. God called you from the womb. God knew your name before you even existed. The world and the other spiritual forces do not want you to have a relationship with God. God's only pursuit is to love us and have a deep relationship with us because of his love for us. The world and other spiritual forces in particular the devil do not want us to be loved by God and he will try anything to stop our relationship with God. The devil uses many ways to disrupt our relationship with God. The devil uses deception and he lies to us constantly. The devil distracts us. He manipulates us and manipulates people around us so that we can't see the love of God that surrounds us. Satan hates our relationship with God, and he will do anything in his power to destroy that relationship and to make us feel unwanted and unloved. Satan manipulates us in many ways. He uses our failures, sins, and regrets to control us and manipulate us so that we're distracted from our relationship with God. Satan uses our failures to prove to us that we are not worthy to be loved by God that we are worthless. If we are worthless, then God will not love us. Satan uses our sins to shame us to make feel that we are not worthy of God or of God's love. Satan uses our regrets to make us feel that we've missed out on something in life. In fact, Satan's whole purpose is to make us feel completely useless and worthless. Therefore, we will think that God can't truly love us and we must live this life alone and unloved. This is the lie that Satan wants us to believe; but the truth is the totally the opposite, God is desperate to love us and wants us to love Him in return and to have a truly loving relationship with each other.

A relationship like a father has with his son or with his daughter. This is the type of relationship that God wants to have with us. A relationship based on love and commitment to each other. A love so strongly commitment that we cannot live without God, and we are total dependence on God. This type of relationship is a truly a faith relationship with God based totally upon our belief that God is there and that he loves us and nothing can truly separate us from the love of God that we have in Christ Jesus. Romans 8: 38-39 says, ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The truth is that nothing can stand in our way from having a loving relationship with God. We just must get around our failures, our sins, and our regrets to have a loving relationship with God. But the Good News is that God has already provided that way for us. That way is the death of Jesus Christ, God's Son, on the cross for our sins. He died for us so that we can have a loving relationship with God. He has removed our sins. He has cancelled out our failures and has removed all our regrets. Jesus carried our sins, our failures, and our regrets on the cross with Him. They have been removed from us and now we have the benefit a being loved by God as He loved His Son Jesus Christ. Always remember that you are truly loved by God and let no one tell you differently because they're only telling you a lie a lie that Satan has planet. Walk away from that lie knowing the truth that God loves you!!!

I pray that you will continue to feel the love of Jesus Christ in your heart during this Summer season. 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

May 2025

Contributions \$0.00
Average Weekly Attendance: 9

May 2026

Contributions \$1,320
Average Weekly Attendance: 8

August Birthdays

Douglas Kauffman 8/8



INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY

May 1 2026 May 31, 2026

INCOME

Bank Interest	\$0.00
Contributions	
General	\$1,320.00
Designated	\$0.00
Special	\$0.00
Other Income	\$0.00
	\$1,320.00

EXPENSES

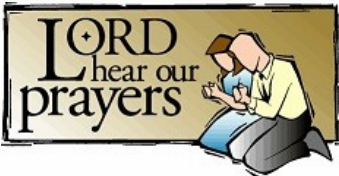
Pastoral Administration	\$483.64
Worship & Music	\$632.38
Office	\$1,031.54
Custodial & Property	\$424.50
Uncategorized	\$0.00
	\$2,572.06

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



Aug 1—Luke 19:1-10, Psalm 13

Holy Jesus, we joyfully praise You for seeking us out for forgiveness and salvation. Amen.

Aug 2—Colossians 1:13-20, Psalm 121

Thank You, Jesus, for preserving our lives and our faith by the work of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Aug 3—John 13:3-17, Psalm 145:8-17

Thank You, God, for never failing to keep Your promises to Your people. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Aug 4—John 4:7-15, Psalm 104:1-30

Holy Spirit, when we are spiritually dry, revive us with Your life-giving presence. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Aug 5—Luke 10:38-42, Psalm 33:18-22

Holy Spirit, strengthen us to take time to be in the Word at home and at church. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Aug 6—2 Samuel 12:1-9, Psalm 51:7-12

Thank You, Jesus, for cleansing my sin and creating a new and clean heart in me. Amen.

Aug 7—Acts 9:1-19, Psalm 146

Holy Spirit, open our eyes, ears, and hearts to know and do Your will. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Aug 8—Philippians 3:3-11, Psalm 24:3-5

Jesus, thank You for not leaving us in despair but instead saving us through faith in You. Amen.

Aug 9—Luke 21:25-28, Psalm 122

Holy Spirit, grant us faith to wait patiently and confidently for Jesus' return. In His name. Amen.

Aug 10—John 10:22-28, Psalm 2:7-12

Lord Jesus, help us by Your Spirit to trust fully in You and Your redeeming work for us. In Your name. Amen.

Aug 11—Luke 1:26-35, Psalm 22:9-10

Holy Father, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, into our human flesh to save us. In His name. Amen.

Aug 12—Romans 1:16-22, Psalm 53

Thank You, Lord, for helping us share the good news of salvation with others. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Aug 13—Romans 10:5-17, Psalm 19:7-11

Lord, please help me to share the Gospel of Jesus with others every day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Aug 14—Luke 22:7-20, Psalm 22:14-18

Lord Jesus, thank You for giving us Your body and blood so that we might live with You eternally. Amen.

Aug 15—2 Corinthians 1:18-22, Psalm 32

Holy God, we praise and thank You for the forgiveness You promise for Jesus' sake. In His name. Amen.

Aug 16—Deuteronomy 8:2-10, Psalm 6

Heavenly Father, thank You for treating us like Your beloved family with a plan for our future. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Aug 17—Matthew 6:6-15, Psalm 24:1-2

Father, thank You for inviting us to pray and for promising to hear and answer us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Aug 18—Exodus 3:1-12, Psalm 105:23-38

Lord God, thank You for rescuing us from the consequences of sin through the work of Your Son, Jesus Christ. In His name we pray. Amen.

Aug 19—Luke 12:15-23, Psalm 84

Holy Spirit, be with me and help my heart to long for the things of God. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Aug 20—Matthew 6:25-35, Psalm 23

Holy Spirit, help me remember You are always with me, even when I am anxious or worried. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Aug 21—Genesis 45:4-15, Psalm 10

Heavenly Father, You always hear our prayers, even when others seem to be against us. Thank You for Your loving, constant care. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Aug 22—Matthew 24:3-31, Psalm 139:1-24

Lord Jesus, thank You for remembering me in Your plan for salvation and for Your promised return. Amen.

Aug 23—Acts 16:25-34, Psalm 51:1-4

Lord Jesus, thank You for receiving us in Baptism and forgiving us, not because of what we do but because of who You are and what You have done. Amen.

Aug 24—Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 113

Lord Jesus, we know there is nothing a dead person can do to save himself. Thank You for rescuing us from death for eternal life. Amen.

Aug 25—Exodus 14:10-30, Psalm 111

Heavenly Father, in Your might and power You promised to free us from sin and death, and we know You will do what You have said. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Aug 26—Mark 12:28-34, Psalm 103:1-5

Lord Jesus, we thank and praise You for granting us a share in Your righteousness. Amen.

Aug 27—Genesis 3, Psalm 40

Thank You, Lord, for Your never-ending mercies toward us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Aug 28—Acts 2:29-41, Psalm 110

Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit— thank You for calling us to saving faith in You. Amen.

Aug 29—Romans 8:31-39, Psalm 16

Holy Spirit, in my sorrow, bring to my mind the comforting promises You have made to me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Aug 30—Deuteronomy 6:4-7, Psalm 37:23-28

Heavenly Father, help me share the faith with the children You have put in my life. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Aug 31—John 6:35-51, Psalm 14:1-4

Jesus, thank You for taking human flesh so that You could die for our sins and rise again, that we may have new life eternally with You. 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 SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS, SATURDAY AUGUST, 15.



UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES:

Worship in the Park with Bethany

****Highland Park Pavillion #2***

Sweets and Treats

Worship in the Park with Bethany

****Highland Park Pavillion #2***

Council Meeting

Potluck Dinner

Octoberfest

July 26 11 AM

Aug 2 10 AM

Aug 23 11 AM

Sep 8 4 PM

Sep 13 12 PM

Sep 27 12 PM



SWEETS AND TREATS

**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF
EACH MONTH.**

OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS WILL BE: August 2, 2026

Provided By: Diane Shultz

* 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!



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