



Kirchenblatt October 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 October 2026

Dear Members of St. James:

Grace, mercy and peace from God, our Father, and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I have been recently reminded of the parable of the Two Sons from Matthew 21. Where there are two sons and a loving father. The father comes to each son and asks them to go into his vineyard to work. The first son says that he will not go into the vineyard but later changes his mind and goes and works in the vineyard. The second son says that he will go, but he does not work in the vineyard, so he does not carry out his father's will. Jesus asked the religious elite in the temple which son did the will of the father, and they say the first son who initially said no but later went and worked in the vineyard, and he did his father's will.

I am reminded by this parable that in many ways, we are either one or the other of the two sons or we are a combination of the two sons. We sometimes oscillate between the two sons where we refuse to do our Father's Will but later repent and go and do the Father's Will or we say that we will do it, but we never follow through on the Father's Will. We as Christians confront this in our daily lives where God asks us to do His Will. Sometimes, we say that we will not do our God-given task but later do it because we are led by the Holy Spirit to perform the task. We sometimes say yes to the God-given task but because of our sinful nature and our human weaknesses of body and mind, we will say yes but we can't carry the task out. I know personally that I feel like this many times. I am oscillating between the two sons; sometimes I refuse to do God's Will but the Holy Spirit acts upon me and I do His Will. Sometimes, I feel like the other son, when I say yes that I'm going to do something but things in my life get in the way and I don't do the very things that I said that I was going to do. The interesting thing is that the Holy Spirit calls on us to do things in our lives and sometimes we do them; and sometimes we don't do what God calls us to do.

Jesus would say in these situations that it is because of our sinful natures that we do both of those things. It is because of our sinful nature that we rebel against God, so we don't want to do God's Will, but the Holy Spirit prods us into doing God's Will. Other times we say yes and our sinful nature gets in our way and we don't do God's Will. But God's Spirit always comes and redirects us to do His Will. Jesus calls us in both of those situations to repent and to believe in Jesus to overcome our sinful nature.

.We must recognize that we're sinners and that we need to repent and then Jesus calls for us to believe in Him. By believing in Jesus, the Holy Spirit can take over, and we can do God's Will by the power of the Holy Spirit. Even though we may be one of those two bad sons because sin gets in the way of doing God's Will, the good news is that by believing in Jesus Christ we're filled with the Holy Spirit and we then do God's Will not by our own will but by the Will of the Father. Jesus calls us to repent and to believe in Him, and when we do that we become more like Jesus the true Son of God who both obeys the Will of His Father and by the power of the Holy Spirit does the Father's Will. When we believe in Jesus Christ, we carry out God's Will through deeds of the Holy Spirit, and we truly become a Child of God. A Child of God who is called to do the Will of the Father and by the power of the Holy Spirit to carry out God's Will so that we will bring worship and praise to Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Always remember that Jesus fills us with His Spirit so that we can do the Will of God within this world and within the church. Brothers and sisters listen for the call of God that the Holy Spirit calls us to do within the church, to repent and believe in Christ, and God and the Holy Spirit will give us the power to accomplish God's Will within our community of Saint James.

I pray that you will continue to have the joy of doing the God-given task that the Holy Spirit places in your life. By the power of the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ, you have the ability of carry out these God-given tasks and do God's Will in the Church and the world. You are a Child of God called to do the Will of the Father. You have a God-given purpose in this life, and you will carry it out through the Resurrection power of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Only through Jesus Christ are you a Child of God and have salvation!! Praise be Jesus Christ!!!

Mark Hoover

President of Saint James Lutheran Church

July 1 2026 July 31, 2026

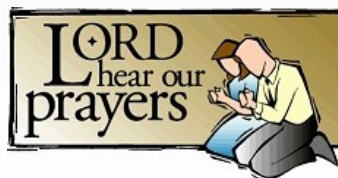
Bank Interest	\$0.09
Contributions	
General	\$941.00
Designated	\$
Special	\$
Other Income	\$4,000.00
	<u>\$4,941.09</u>

Pastoral Administration	\$331.40
Worship & Music	\$632.38
Office	\$1,393.43
Custodial & Property	\$1,602.42
Uncategorized	\$153.85
	<u>\$4,113.48</u>

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



Oct 1—Isaiah 51:12-16, Psalm 91:1-4

Almighty God, when I am afraid, hide me in the safe shadows of Your Love. In Jesus's name. Amen.

Oct 2—Romans 4:23-25, Psalm 22:27-31

Lord Jesus, Lamb of God, in You my salvation was won and my questions answered. Amen.

Oct 3—1 Corinthians 3:10-17, Psalm 118:14-24

Jesus, when the earthquakes of life threaten to shake my faith, keep me secure and strong in Your love. Amen.

Oct 4—Romans 15:1-7, Psalm 119:89-96

Lord, lead me to study Your Word and rejoice in Your promises. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Oct 5—Philippians 4:4-7, Psalm 4

Heavenly Father, hear my prayers and fill me with the peace that You alone can give. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Oct 6—Micah 7:18-19, Psalm 145

Lord Jesus, help me to share with others the truth of Your love and forgiveness. Amen.

Oct 7—Daniel 12:5-10, Psalm 111

Lord Jesus, I give thanks for the understanding given by the Spirit. I look forward to Your return! Amen.

Oct 8—Isaiah 55:1-3, Psalm 119:97-104

Lord, lead me by Your Spirit to be satisfied with the sweetness of Your Holy Word. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Oct 9—Colossians 2:13-14, Psalm 97

Lord, You redeemed me through the justice and mercy of the cross. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Oct 10—Matthew 28:1-10, Psalm 27:1-5

Lord, lead me to find joy in the sure and certain promises of Your Word. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Oct 11—1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Psalm 116:1-7

Lord Jesus, I praise You for the victory You have won for me. Amen.

Oct 12—Genesis 18:22-33, Psalm 53

Dear Savior, You have clothed me in righteousness. Lead me to walk in Your ways. Amen.

Oct 13—2 Corinthians 4:1-6, Psalm 119:41-48

Spirit of God, guide me in studying the Scriptures so that I will be firmly grounded in the Word. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Oct 14—Luke 21:25-28, Psalm 98
Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

Oct 15—2 Corinthians 7:8-10, Psalm 51
Spirit of God, lead me to true repentance. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Oct 16—2 Corinthians 4:16-18, Psalm 9:1-10
Holy Spirit, make my faith strong as I cling to those things that are unseen. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Oct 17—Luke 18:1-8, Psalm 143
Dear Savior, help me to be persistent and steadfast in prayer. Amen.

Oct 18—2 Corinthians 12:7-10, Psalm 34:1-10
Jesus, if I must boast, lead me to boast about Your love and grace! Amen.

Oct 19—Hebrews 2:14-18, Psalm 130
Jesus, in You alone I have forgiveness, peace, and hope. Amen.

Oct 20—Judges 7:19-23, Psalm 18:25-30
Jesus, forgive my sins and let Your light shine through me. Amen.

Oct 21—Romans 13:11-14, Psalm 39:4-7
Jesus, help me to be faithful as I await Your return. Amen.

Oct 22—1 Timothy 4:11-16, Psalm 1
Spirit of God, guide me in the daily practice of following my Savior. In His name. Amen.

Oct 23—Hebrews 13:12-16, Psalm 22:1-5
Lord God, in days of trouble, help me grow stronger in faith and to offer You my daily sacrifice of praise. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Oct 24—1 Peter 2:22-25, Psalm 32:1-5
Lord, forgive my sins for Jesus' sake. In His name I pray. Amen.

Oct 25—Mark 4:35-41, Psalm 107:23-31
God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I remember Your mighty works. I know that You care for me. Amen.

Oct 26—John 16:29-33, Psalm 37:1-9
Jesus, when I am anxious about the troubles of this world, fill me with Your peace. Amen.

Oct 27—Colossians 2:6-10, Psalm 119:9-16

Savior, You are my way, my truth, and my life. I find peace in Your promises. Amen.

Oct 28—2 Timothy 2:1-7, Psalm 26

Lord and Savior, bless our pastors, who guard the sound words of Christian teaching and proclaim the good news of Jesus. Amen.

Oct 29—Hebrews 13:1-3, Psalm 5:11-12

Jesus, give courage to Your suffering people. Deliver them from evil. Amen.

Oct 30—Luke 24:44-48, Psalm 71

Lord Jesus, when I see the people all around me to see them as a field You have prepared for harvest. Amen.

Oct 31—Ephesians 2:1-10, Psalm 46

Thank You, God, for wanting me and making me alive in Christ. In His name. 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 OCTOBER ISSUE OF THE KIRCHENBLATT IS,
THURSDAY OCTOBER, 15.***



UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES:

Sweets and Treats

Oct 4 10 AM

Council Meeting

Oct 15 4 PM

Octoberfest

Oct 18 12 PM

Annual Congregational Meeting

Nov 8 12 PM

Decorate Church for Christmas

Dec 5 10 AM

**** Pizza will be provided afterwards***

Allegheny Chorale Concert

Dec 6 3 PM

**** Refreshments following the performance***



SWEETS AND TREATS

**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF
EACH MONTH.**

OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS WILL BE: Oct 4, 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!



NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

October 15, 2026

4 PM

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Sunday Worship Service will return to the Sanctuary on October 4, 2026 and remain in the Sanctuary until Palm Sunday.



October 18, 2026

**Dinner will be served following the Worship Service.
Dinner to include Sauerkraut, Pork, Mashed Potatoes, Kneadles
(German Bread Dumplings) with Gravy, Hot German Potato
Salad, Hot Dogs & Rolls, applesauce and drinks.**

We are asking members to bring a side dish, vegetable or dessert.

Hosted By: Robin and John Kessler





The **Annual Congregational** meeting
will be held:

NOVEMBER 8, 2026

after the service. There will be nominations for council members and then the election for council. The budget will be discussed and then anything else that the congregation may bring to our attention.



The Allegheny Chorale presents their 42nd Season Christmas Concert



St. James Lutheran Church

December 6, 2026

3PM



We ask the congregation to please contribute cookies for the social after the concert. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex.

COMMUNITY LUNCH



ST LUKES COMMUNITY LUNCH

October 14th 12 PM

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

Dear Lord

Bless my church family.
Strengthen leaders, encourage
members, and let us grow in unity.



Prayer For Peace In The Country

Dear Lord,

We pray for peace in this country. Let our shores be blessed with peace and harmony. Secure our future with tranquility. Resolve all festering conflicts that threaten to boil over. Let this country be a shining beacon of understanding. Let there be peace between tribes, religions, and families. Let your love be the cup we drink from every day and help us forgive each other for our trespasses.

Amen

St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

— · + · —
is a
*Blessed
Community*
♡



May God's love
and blessings
be with you
and remain
with you always.

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