



Kirchenblatt September 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

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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 September 2026

Dear Members of St. James:

Grace, mercy and peace from God, our Father, and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In Matthew 16, Jesus asks His disciples a very important question, "Who do people say that I am." The disciples answered Jesus saying, "some say that you are John the Baptist reborn, some say Elijah, some say Jeremiah or one of the prophets. The disciples were being very diplomatic in their answers. Because they did not give Him the more negative things that people were saying about Him, such things as that He was possessed by a demon or that He was a glutton and a drunkard who hung out with sinners, and some people said that He was just plain crazy. Certainly, the Pharisees saw Him as someone who was a false prophet and a hypocrite or sinner. The world did not have a good impression of Jesus. Most of the time their opinion about Jesus reflected their own feelings about religious people and He was hated. I can understand that the world might consider Jesus as not being a very good teacher. I'm quite sure if I stood on your pulpit on Sunday morning and told you that "I am the way, the truth, and the light and that no one comes unto God except through me." that you would respond the same way that His hometown of Nazareth that you would want to throw me off of a cliff. Most of the time if you looked at Jesus, you would have to say one of two things about who Jesus was either that He was not a good teacher or that He was a lunatic. Because what Jesus said didn't make sense, His words didn't measure up to what the religious elite thought what a good teacher or a good prophet would say.

Jesus then asked His disciples, "But who do you say that I am." I could imagine with this question that Jesus disciples were speechless. They didn't say anything, because they were confused by who He was and they didn't understand His mission. Peter as usual was the first to answer His question. Peter said You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Jesus said to, "Peter blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonah for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father in Heaven has revealed this to you. I sometimes feel that these words of Jesus were not only said His disciples but also for us. "WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM.? It comes down to this who do we think Jesus truly is? Is He just a good teacher, or is He a prophet, or is He crazy. Who do we believe the world, or Jesus' critics or do we believe the miracles that He performed, that is the question? But what it really comes down to is this. If Jesus is the Messiah, what did He say that He came into this world to do.

Immediately after He orders His disciples to tell no one that He was the Messiah, He begins to tell the disciples that the Son of Man must go to Jerusalem, suffer at the hands of the elders, chief priests, and scribes and to be killed and after three days be raised again. We are also like Peter when we heard those words, we want to protest Jesus and say “No Lord, this can't happen. We don't want our Messiah to be killed. No, we don't want our Messiah to be killed, but Jesus' mission was to die for the sins of the world, so He had to die. Many times, we think that Jesus was a victim, but the reality was Jesus was not a victim, but Jesus was a willing participant in His death. He laid His life down for us so that we could have forgiveness of sins, because He was the Sacrificial Lamb of God who took away the sins of the world. Without Jesus' death, there is no forgiveness of sins and there is no salvation. The very thing that Peter missed, was He said that He was going to Jerusalem to be killed and then after three days rise again, all that Peter heard was that Jesus was going to die. Peter didn't hear that second part that Jesus said that He was going to rise again. The resurrection is the key to how that we see Jesus. If Jesus simply dies and does not rise then, He is a false prophet or He is a total lunatic. But if Jesus rises from the dead after three days and is seen alive again among His disciples, then we believe that He's exactly who He said that He was. He is the Messiah, the Son of the living God, because He has the power to lay down His life and to pick it up again only the Messiah, the Son of the living God has this power to raise from the dead. Therefore, because of our faith and belief in Jesus Christ's resurrection, we come to the point to say just like Peter that we have to believe that Jesus is the true Messiah the true Son of the Living God who came into this world to die for our sins and then after three days rise again to bring to us eternal life. Therefore, all that we can say is praise be unto Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior who is the Son of the Living God.

I pray that you will believe that Jesus Christ is the Messiah and the Son of the Living God this Fall 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 by His Resurrection have Eternal Life. Only through Jesus Christ do we have salvation!! Praise be Jesus Christ!!!

Mark Hoover

President of Saint James Lutheran Church

Pastoral Administration	\$471.40
Worship & Music	\$632.38
Office	\$515.77
Custodial & Property	\$212.25
Uncategorized	\$0.00
	<u>\$1,831.80</u>

LORD hear our prayers

Sep 1—Leviticus 23:4, Psalm 116:1-6

Lord, I come to You today, asking for Your leading and for growth in my walk with You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 2—Leviticus 23:33-36, Psalm 16:7-11

Lord, help us to clearly hear Your guiding voice on life's winding roads. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 3—Deuteronomy 16:16, Psalm 122:1-7

Lord, thank You for Your gifts and promises. I rejoice in what You have done! In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 4—Deuteronomy 31:10-11, Psalm 119:97-103

Lord, help me meditate on Your Law and receive the joy of Your salvation once again. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 5—Nehemiah 8:14-17, Psalm 119:105-110

Lord, strengthen me today to be a shining light, illuminating the hope of Your salvation through Jesus. In His name. Amen.

Sep 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.

Sep 7—Matthew 22:1-10, Psalm 39:12

O Lord, empower us to go outside our comfort zone and be great guests through Jesus. In His name. Amen.

Sep 8—1 Kings 8:1-4, Psalm 86:8-13

Abba, Father, teach me to walk in truth by Your Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 9—Isaiah 9:6-7, Psalm 132:11-18

O Lord, help me today to sanctify Your holy name in all I do. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 10—Revelation 7:4-17, Psalm 126:5

Lord, come quickly and take us to our real heavenly home. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 11—Zechariah 14:5-19, Psalm 33:12

Abba, Father, replace our hatred with love for others, even as Jesus loves us. In His name. Amen.

Sep 12—Leviticus 23:23-32, Psalm 81:1-3

Lord, help me today to live consecrated to You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 13—Romans 9:1-5, Psalm 119:165-168

O Lord, give me Your full measure of zeal for the lost, that others may hear clearly. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 14—Romans 9:30-33, Psalm 146:5-8

Lord, help me to fix my eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of my faith, that I might stand firm and not be ashamed of the cross. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 15—Isaiah 53:1-6, Psalm 22:14-19

Lord, thank You for Your amazing grace and unbridled love. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 16—Romans 10:1-4, Psalm 130

Thank You, Lord, for redemption, through our Messiah, Jesus. Amen.

Sep 17—Romans 10:14-15, Psalm 145:18-19

Lord, help me love You with all that I have this day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 18—Romans 11:1-6, Psalm 86:1-7

Lord, I lift my thirsty soul to You this day, seeking Your blessed joy and gladness. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 19—Romans 11:11-16, Psalm 32:1-5

Lord, help me to boldly declare Jesus' love today. In His name. Amen.

Sep 20—Leviticus 16:16-23, Psalm 51:1-13

Lord, create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit in me through Jesus' shed blood so that I might serve You boldly. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 21—Romans 11:17-24, Psalm 106:1-5

Lord, grant me a richer understanding of Your gracious care and shalom. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 22—Romans 11:28-32, Psalm 118:5

Lord, help me today to walk in Your calling. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 23—Romans 12:9-18, Psalm 100

Lord, we pray, pray some more, and keep on praying. Hear our prayer today in Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 24—1 Corinthians 15:50-58, Psalm 57:1-7

Lord, help me today to be faithful and steadfast in service to You. May Your Spirit strengthen me for the battles ahead. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 25—Leviticus 23:39-40, Psalm 84:8-12

Lord, help me to dwell in Your presence now and forever. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 26—Leviticus 23:40-43, Psalm 1

Lord, renew the spiritual storehouses of our lives. We rejoice before You this day for all You have done. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 27—Isaiah 26:1-4, Psalm 107:33-38

Lord, we proclaim Your name exalted for all You have done in our lives in bringing salvation. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 28—Numbers 29:35-40, Psalm 16:1-4

O Lord, give me daily Your assurance of salvation. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 29—Nehemiah 8:1-8, Psalm 97

Lord, thank You for Your angels, who serve Your bidding. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sep 30—Isaiah 56:6-7, Psalm 39:7-12

O Lord, may we enter Your house of prayer and find solace for our parched souls. In Jesus' name. Amen.

A horizontal banner featuring a landscape with blue mountains under a sunset sky with orange and yellow hues. The text "YOUR DAILY prayer" is centered in white, with "YOUR DAILY" in a bold sans-serif font and "prayer" in a cursive script font.

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,
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER, 15.***



UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES:

***Sweets and Treats
Council Meeting
Potluck Dinner
Octoberfest***

***Sep 6 10:30 AM
Sep 8 4 PM
Sep 13 12 PM
Oct 18 PM***



SWEETS AND TREATS

**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF
EACH MONTH.**

OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS WILL BE: Sept 6, 2026
Provided By: Mike and Lori Savino

* 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



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



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