

# the Spirit of St. James



St. James Lutheran Church, 1101 High Street, Pottstown, Pennsylvania, 19464 • (610) 326-2810 • APRIL 2009

OUR MISSION FOR ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

***“We welcome all to receive God's love through Christ and  
to share it with the world.”***

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### Worship

8 and 10:45 a.m.

### Coffee Fellowship

9 a.m.

### Adult Education and Confirmation Classes

9:30 a.m.

*(no classes on April 12)*

### Youth Choir Rehearsal

10 a.m.

### Holy Communion Weekly

***Holy Week and Easter Sunday  
Schedule found on pages 4 & 5***



## OFFICE HOURS

**Monday through Thursday**  
8 a.m. – noon and 1 – 2:30 p.m.

**Friday**  
CLOSED

## **TELEPHONE**

610-326-2810

[www.stjamespottstown.org](http://www.stjamespottstown.org)

## STAFF

### **Ministers**

Each and Every Member of St. James

### **Pastor**

The Rev. Peter Hutchinson

e-mail: [pastorh@stjamespottstown.org](mailto:pastorh@stjamespottstown.org)

home 610-718-0313

### **Director of Discipleship**

Suzanne Rigg

e-mail: [rigg@thehill.org](mailto:rigg@thehill.org)

office 610-326-2810

home 610-970-4865

### **Secretary**

Darlene Jackson

e-mail: [secretary@stjamespottstown.org](mailto:secretary@stjamespottstown.org)

### **Director of Music Ministries**

Sharon MacCabe

email: [sharonbmaccabe@comcast.net](mailto:sharonbmaccabe@comcast.net)

office: 610-326-2810

### **Custodian**

Glenn Yerger

contact: 610-326-2810

### **Missionaries**

Dr. Stephen & Becky Thorson

Kathmandu, Nepal

### **Newsletter Editor**

Dawn Detweiler

[newsletterstj@wi.rr.com](mailto:newsletterstj@wi.rr.com)

## OFFICE NOTES

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### **Master Calendar / Room Scheduling**

All room reservations, including committee meetings and private gatherings, should be made with Darlene in the office. Please indicate to her any need for room rearrangement, (extra chairs, tables) so proper preparations can be made.

### **Newsletter Deadline for May 2009 Edition: April 15, 2009**

Article submissions can be sent by e-mail to [newsletterstj@stjamespottstown.org](mailto:newsletterstj@stjamespottstown.org) or placed in the "newsletter" mailbox the Sunday before the deadline. Also please note that articles may be edited for clarity and space conservation.

### **A Reminder from the Archives Committee**

If you have any photos from any church related events that can be shared, please see that the Archive Committee receives them. We are looking for past & future events. Also, if possible, please try to identify the people in the photos. Thanks!

### **Weekly Bulletin Announcements on the Website**

Weekly bulletin announcements can be found on St. James' website under the **news heading**. This section will be updated weekly with new information available from week to week. **Check it out for yourself at [www.stjamespottstown.org](http://www.stjamespottstown.org) .**

## A Note From Pastor Hutchinson

Someone said to me the other day that it's good Easter is later this year, so that spring is closer and the flowers are starting to bloom again. And I must say that I had to agree with those thoughts. We, of course, have the church decorated with flowers at Easter to symbolize the idea of new life that comes to us. I think that it's "nice" when Easter is around the same time when crocuses are up and the forsythia bushes begin to bloom and we see new buds start to emerge and things begin to look green again.

And yet, as Christian believers, we see signs of new life, hope, expectation of good things to come all over our world, regardless of the season or the weather. So in the dead cold of winter, in the sweltering heat of summer, and as the leaves drop from the trees in the fall, we can see healing happening and life being restored.

What do I mean? Well, we see healing happening and life being restored when a parent embraces a child and tells them they love them, for no particular reason except that they do. When one brother reaches out to another whom he has not bothered with for years, in an effort to reconcile with him. When a co-worker offers to help someone who they had otherwise not bothered with at all. When someone who had no church home finds a place to worship where they feel welcomed and accepted. When a dying person does not fear death because they believe all that we teach in the church about Jesus and the promise of resurrection.

Whether small examples or profoundly large ones, the weather really has little to do with our seeing signs of the hope that God constantly gives to us.

God gives us signs all the time, and all we have to do is look for them (or create them ourselves!)

Have a blessed Easter.

PASTOR

## Bible Study with Pastor

Sometimes the bible seems like a lot to understand. Like a meal that looks too large to consume, it can often be better taken in small bites. So after Easter, Pastor will begin a bible study that does just that. Each week we will take a look at one of the smallest books of the bible. That way, we can go home and digest what we have learned without being stuffed and overwhelmed. The books will include the Old Testament book of Obadiah and New Testament books: Philemon, 2 John, 3 John, and Jude. Each of these books has only one chapter.

So please come to receive the word of God in a relaxed and easy to swallow presentation, complete with all the fixings of our enjoyable bible studies.

**Gatherings will be Tuesday nights starting at 7 p.m. on May 5<sup>th</sup> at St. James and Thursday mornings at the Sanatoga Ridge Retirement Village at 10 a.m. beginning May 7<sup>th</sup>.** Coffee and snacks are generally available at both meetings. All parishioners and their friends are welcome!

# WORSHIP NOTES

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## Lenten Soup/Salad Supper and Worship

**Our last mid-week Lenten Soup/Salad Supper followed by worship will be April 1.** A sign up sheet is available in Horn Hall for those who plan to attend supper. We will be concluding our series on "Our Lives are Not our Own – Saying Yes to God."

**Supper is served at 6 p.m. and worship begins at 7 p.m.** Visitors are welcome, so bring with you a friend.



## Palm/Passion Sunday 2009 April 5<sup>th</sup> Worship at 8 and 10:45 a.m.

This year we will be celebrating Palm/Passion Sunday with two services. We will also once again make use of the eco-palms, which are full palm branches. Because of the palm procession, we will **first gather for worship in Horn Hall and then proceed to the narthex.** We plan to sing the "Psalms" and worship will also have a dramatic reading of the Passion according to St. Mark. Please come and worship on this special Sunday and invite your friends and neighbors.

## Events and Worship in Holy Week

### Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup> Haggadah Meal at 6 p.m.

The Haggadah Meal features the telling of the Passover, the story of God's deliverance of the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt and his creation of the Israelite people. Come to the Haggadah meal and learn why this story of God and his people has significance not only in the Jewish faith, but also in the Christian faith. The telling of the Passover story will be followed by a light meal of soup, salad and bread.

Please **sign up in Horn Hall by April 5<sup>th</sup>** if you plan to attend. There is a **separate sign up if you would like to contribute foods.** Maundy Thursday worship will immediately follow the Haggadah Meal at 7 p.m.

### Maundy Thursday Worship April 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

There will be a traditional **Maundy Thursday worship at 7 p.m.**, with Holy Communion celebrated using the *Unfalling Light* evening Holy Communion setting by Marty Haugen and Susan Briehl.

At the end of the service, the altar will be stripped to symbolize the stripping and humiliation of Jesus at the cross.

### Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> Prayer Walk

On Good Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, the Pottstown Clergy Association will again be sponsoring a Good Friday Processional. We will gather at 10:30 a.m. at the green between Emmanuel and Zion's UCC Churches on Hanover Street. The processional is about a mile long and lasts about an hour. We will stop at nine prayer stations and pray for various aspects of community life.

## **Good Friday Worship April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.**

One service will be held on **Good Friday at 7 p.m.** recognizing the day that Jesus was crucified.

## **Community Good Friday Service**

The Community Good Friday Service will be at the Bethel AME Church from noon until 3 PM.



## **Easter Potluck Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt April 12<sup>th</sup>**

A potluck breakfast sponsored by the Sunday Morning Adult Education Classes will be held on **Easter Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> between the two worship services.** Also that morning will be an **Easter Egg Hunt with a devotion for children beginning at 10:15 a.m.**

A sign up sheet is available in Horn Hall to **sign up if you plan to attend** the breakfast. A free-will offering will be collected to cover the cost of coffee, juice, supplies, etc. If you would like to volunteer your time to set up, help serve, or clean up, please see Suzanne Rigg.

There will also be a **collection box in Horn Hall on April 5<sup>th</sup>** for anyone who would like to donate small candy (miniature peanut butter cups, chocolate eggs, etc.) and other small prizes (stickers, crayons, playdough, puzzles, etc.) for the egg hunt.

## **Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> The Resurrection of our Lord Worship at 8 and 10:45 a.m.**

Worship includes Holy Communion and special music, including the Bell Choir, a brass quartet accompanying the Chancel Choir, additional instrumental music, and the anthem "Lord of the Dance." A Potluck Breakfast in between services at 9:15 a.m.

There will be **no adult education or confirmation classes** on this day. An **Easter Egg Hunt with a devotion for children** will begin at 10:15 a.m.

## **Commitment Sunday Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>**

During the season of Lent we have learned how our lives, our abilities, our time, our possessions, and our world and legacy are not our own. God calls us to a life of accountability as a way to bless us and not to burden us. **Knowing that God has said "yes" to us in our baptism we each now have the opportunity to say "yes" to God** through the committing of our lives, our abilities, our time, and our possessions in doing the work of God through the ministries of the Church of Christ, specifically here at St. James.

On this special Sunday each of us will have **the opportunity to make a financial commitment and the chance to commit ourselves to a new ministry of our choosing.** It will be a Sunday of celebration and blessing. To enhance our worship we will have special music provided by percussionist Jonathan Kreider, and also possibly Brian Giebler.

So please plan to attend worship on this day as we encourage each other to trust in God's love and to continue to live out our baptismal calling with the support of God and our fellow members of Christ.



April's Rejoicing Spirits worship will be on the **third Wednesday of the month** and not the second. The date for our Easter Rejoicing Spirits worship will be **Wednesday, April 15 at 7 p.m.** with fellowship time following worship. We will be celebrating The Resurrection of our Lord through worship, music and prayer. Also this month we we will be **celebrating our fourth anniversary**. Remember that even though Rejoicing Spirits is dedicated to sharing God's Word and spreading his love to our brothers and sisters with developmental disabilities it is also open to everyone in the community. If you have not had a chance to come and worship with us, please prayerfully consider joining us.

### **Congratulations to Our New Acolytes and Crucifers**

Congratulations to the children and youth who recently received training as either an acolyte and/or a crucifer. Those trained as **acolytes include: Mya Detweiler, Stephanie French, Laura Goins, and Robbie Taylor**. Those trained as **crucifers include: Stephanie French, Evan Kirsten, Megan Mace, and Ashley Hoffman**. We look forward to seeing them serve in their new roles.

### **Third Sunday Offering APRIL Recipient**

The Visiting Nurse Association of Pottstown and Vicinity is part of a family of four voluntary, **non-profit, home health organizations** that provide services in Montgomery, Chester, Berks, Delaware, and Bucks Counties. They deliver a variety of services in primary nursing, infusion therapy, enterostomal therapy, psychiatric/mental health, home care, rehabilitation, medical social services, hospice care, maternal/child health, dietician services, in-home support, and other support groups.

**If you need services**, want to inquire about which services you may need, or would like an assessment visit (with no financial obligation), please **call 610-327-5700**. You can also access their website for more information at [www.vnapottstown.org](http://www.vnapottstown.org).

The Visiting Nurse Association does much needed and appreciated work in our community. Please consider supporting their efforts through this month's Third Sunday Offering.

### **Third Sunday Offering Schedule**

- MAY – Volunteer Home Care
- JUNE - Salvation Army
- JULY – School supplies for children (Cluster Outreach Center)
- AUGUST – Global Mission
- SEPTEMBER – Lutheran World Relief
- OCTOBER – Cluster Outreach Center
- NOVEMBER – Open to allow for offering for current need, i.e. hurricane relief.
- DECEMBER – ELCA World Hunger

# DISCIPLESHIP and FELLOWSHIP and SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

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## **Spaghetti Dinner** **April 17 from 4:30 to 7 p.m.**

The next Work Mission Spaghetti Diner is being planned for Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> in Horn Hall. The menu and price remains at \$8 for adults and \$5 for children. Tickets are available from Ted Baer or any Work Mission Team member.

Help support this year's Work Mission to Mississippi by buying a ticket and joining us for dinner. Donations will also be greatly accepted, if you are not able to attend. As in the past, matching funds will be provided by Thrivent through the Upper Montgomery Chapter #31392.

## **Blood Pressure Checks**

Stay well! Blood Pressure checks will be **April 5<sup>th</sup> after each service.**

## **Blood Drive**

Our next Miller-Keystone Blood Drive would have been April 6<sup>th</sup>. However, because that is the start of Holy Week the blood drive has been scheduled for **Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup> from 2 - 7 p.m in Horn Hall.** We had a wonderful response in January's drive with 30 donors, 20 units collected and 87 lives saved. Wow! Thanks to all for making this a big success.

Please remember to keep April 27<sup>th</sup> available and let's see if we can increase our numbers! Please contact Ellen Ibach at 610-323-4477 to make an appointment to give.

## **Community Meal**

This month, volunteers are needed on April 23<sup>rd</sup> to provide desserts, cook, set up and clean up. For more information, please call Susan Cameron at 610-718-9926.

## **WELCA News**

Come to our WELCA meeting in Horn Hall at 7 p.m. on **April 20<sup>th</sup> when Sister Jane Roper will be our presenter.**

If you're doing any spring cleaning, remember the Spring Red Door Boutique a/k/a "**Rummage Sale Time**" is **May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.** Clean items are appreciated! If you have new items with tags attached, please remember to keep them on and indicate "new" so we can pass those items on to the local Church In-Gathering.

## **Women of the ELCA Upper MontCo Bible Study**

The next WELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study will be held at St. James Lutheran Church, Pottstown on **Tuesday, April 7, 2009, at 10 a.m. with coffee at 9:30.** The leader will be Betty Darocha presenting *Esther: For Such a Time as This (Esther 4:14).*

**All women** are invited to participate in these Bible Studies based on the theme *The Hidden Hand of God: A study of wisdom in Ruth, Daniel & Esther.* This is the 24<sup>th</sup> year of meeting and sharing together. Bring your friends! We welcome inter-denominational viewpoints. If you would like to attend, please contact Grace Schafer or Mary Arnt for carpooling.

## **Sunday Morning Adult Education Opportunities**

**All adult education classes are at 9:30 a.m.**

**Beginning on April 19<sup>th</sup>**

### ***In God's Name***

Beginning the first Sunday after Easter, Pastor Hutchinson will lead an adult study in the Blue Room on Sunday mornings at 9:30. We will be watching a video titled "In God's Name" which was first aired on CBS a year ago. The film producers interviewed twelve major religious leaders throughout the world, including the head of the Russian Orthodox Church, Pope Benedict XVI, the Dalai Lama, and our own ELCA Bishop, Mark Hanson. The interviewers had been in the World Trade Center buildings on 9/11 when that tragedy occurred and this harrowing experience prompted them on a journey to seek answers to the meaning of life. Each week we will watch some of the video and then discuss what we've heard. Come and learn and enjoy.

### ***Seasons of the Spirit***

This is a lectionary-based Bible study that shapes and transforms lives. Each week as a class the group will take an in-depth look at the Bible readings heard that week in worship while discovering and learning to share God's Word. The class teaches, inspires and involves its members in prayer and spiritual growth. **The class will meet weekly in the Adult Study classroom on the ground floor.** Individuals can join this class anytime.

## **Possible Small Group on Divorce**

There are more than just a few divorced people in America, as well as in our church. It's a matter that is mostly glossed over and not talked about in society as well as in many churches. Pastor Hutchinson is considering holding a small group session in early June on the subject of divorce.

This will be part bible study, but also a time (if you wish) to share thoughts, feelings and personal experiences. No one will be required to do or say anything and all content of conversations and of these gatherings will remain within and not leave the privacy of the group.

However, we cannot have a helpful gathering and discussion that is beneficial unless a reasonable number of people attend. **So if you think you might be interested in participating, please either call or email Pastor so that he can begin to plan.** And please know that even your contact of him will remain confidential. Thank you.

## **Bear Creek Camper Discount**

First time Classic Week summer campers can receive a discount of \$121 and be able to attend Bear Creek camp for only \$299 for a week. To find more, or to register go to [www.bearcreecamp.org](http://www.bearcreecamp.org). An additional \$100 discount may also be available. Please see Suzanne Rigg for details.

# MEMBER NEWS

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## April Birthdays

1 - Bob Jerdon; 3 - Jim Meloy; 4 - Mary Jane Bealer, Janet Miller; 6 - Cindy Bush, Connie Worrall; 7- Haily Krasley; 8 - Joan Griffith; 10 - Jean Drauschak; 12 - April Taylor; 15 – Rob Krasley; 16 - Pat Weber; 17 - Joan Gardiner; 18 - Megan Mace; 19 - Diana Kuchenbrod, Earl Moyer; 20 - Bernie Roth; 21 – Kim Weaner, Duke Kinckiner; 22 - Joe Mittura; 24 - Kevin Wert; 26 - Florence Gallino, Greg Svanda; 28 – Evelyn Szczepanski; 30 – Phil Hackett, Amy Koons

## New Address

Mary Kochel  
609 Woodland Drive  
Pottstown, PA 19464

## Thank You Notes

Pastor and his family want to thank everyone for their expressions of sympathy and condolences on the passing of his father, who died on March 18, 2009. Your kindness and warm sentiments are very much appreciated.

Thank you to all who provided food for our Lenten Soup Suppers in March. As always the soup is great and the bread and salad are wonderful additions.

Thank you to our Lenten Hospitality Team for the great work in and out of the kitchen.

Sincere thanks to St. James for hosting the 2009 World Day of Prayer service sponsored by the Pottstown Church Women United. Please convey our thanks to all the

women at St. James who helped in the service and to the women who brought refreshments and helped during the social time. Our thanks also to Dave Hartzman with his assistance on the audio equipment. A number of folks expressed to me their appreciation of the service and felt it was meaningful to them.

Blessings to All,  
Marie Bade, President of CWU

Dear Pastor Hutchinson:

It was a pleasure to join with you and the congregation at your Lenten Service. My stepson, Justin, often attends your "Rejoicing Spirits" service. It means a great deal to him and my wife and I are grateful for the expression of Christ's love to Justin and to our family.

In the prayers I was truly grateful for the way you honored the Silver Springs Martin Luther School 150<sup>th</sup> birthday and our mission over these years, and for your expression of hope for many more years of our service to children and families.

Yours in Christ,  
Robert F Bartelt, MSW  
Vice President  
Silver Springs Martin Luther School

## Deepest Sympathies

To the family and friends of Corrine Daylor.

To Pastor Hutchinson and his family upon the death of his father, T. Corte Hutchinson.

To Garnet Nye and his family upon the death of his uncle Theodore Nye.

## Meet our New Members – Part 3

**George and Gerry Davis** both are graduates of Media High School and grew up in Delaware County, but Gerry was born in Philadelphia and George in Tazewell, VA. Gerry is a graduate of West Chester University and worked as a teacher. George is a graduate of Widener University (the Pennsylvania Military College when he attended), USAF Pilot Training, and the University of Phoenix. He is retired from mechanical engineering in construction and maintenance, heavy industry refineries, chemical plants and power plants, etc. They have both lived in various places in and out of the United States, including: Ohio, California, Puerto Rico, Canada, Colorado and Texas. They have two daughters, Kelly and Aimee. Gerry enjoys gardening, reading, and homemaking, while George likes golf. They both take pleasure in traveling and spending time with their family. They come to us from Calvary Lutheran Church, West Chester.

## Council Member Contact

If at anytime you have a question, concern, or suggestion that might help the church, contact one of the following elected Council members.

**Pat Baer - President** 610-326-8598  
Email: [pattedbaer@verizon.net](mailto:pattedbaer@verizon.net)

**Cyndi Krasley- Vice-Presidnet**  
484-945-0165

**Barbara Ungerman - Secretary**  
610-718-9368  
Email: [bungerman@comcast.net](mailto:bungerman@comcast.net)

**Vickie Kirsten** 484-300-4915  
Email: [vjkirsten@comcast.net](mailto:vjkirsten@comcast.net)

**Sherry Clancy - Treasurer** 610-323-5977  
Email: [srclancy@comcast.net](mailto:srclancy@comcast.net)

**Ron Schafer** 610-326-4814  
Email: [ronslibrary@comcast.net](mailto:ronslibrary@comcast.net)

**Mike Lunn** 610-367-8762  
Email: [lunns2@dejazzd.com](mailto:lunns2@dejazzd.com)

**Julie Hauck** 610-385-7308  
Email: [\\_jlynne65@ptd.net](mailto:_jlynne65@ptd.net)

**Scott Strichik** 610-327-3108  
Email: [sstrichik@verizon.net](mailto:sstrichik@verizon.net)

**Laurie O'Connell** 610-323-5787  
Email: [rlconnelljr@concast.net](mailto:rlconnelljr@concast.net)

**Tracie Rheel** 610-323-7051  
Email: [trheel@comcast.net](mailto:trheel@comcast.net)

**Candy Koons** 610-327-0458  
Email: [itp494@aol.com](mailto:itp494@aol.com)

**Carol Keller** 610-326-1013  
Email: [shane550@aol.com](mailto:shane550@aol.com)

<b>TREASURER'S REPORT</b>			
	<u>Jan-2009</u>	<u>Feb-2009</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$ 22,232.52	\$ 18,159.11	\$ 40,391.63
Expenses	<u>27,690.38</u>	<u>23,969.95</u>	<u>51,660.33</u>
Net Income	(\$5,457.86)	(\$5,810.84)	(\$11,268.70)
<i>Regular Envelopes</i>			
Received	\$15,850.17	\$15,089.00	\$30,939.17
Needed*	<u>19,740.05</u>	<u>19,739.69</u>	<u>39,479.74</u>
Over (Under)	(\$3,889.88)	(\$4,650.69)	(\$8,540.57)
<i>Third Sunday Offering</i>			
	Manatawny Manor	Seminary Support	
Collected	\$320.00	\$298.00	
<i>Capital Campaign</i>			
	<u>Jan-2009</u>	<u>Feb-2009</u>	<u>Total Campaign</u>
Income	\$12,157.00	\$5,864.00	\$316,659.24

\*Amount required to balance the budget.

## Who is Thrivent Financial for Lutherans?

### Strengthening your life and the lives of others

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is a faith-based, not-for-profit membership organization helping nearly 3 million members to achieve their financial goals and give back to their communities. For more than a century, the company's blend of financial expertise, shared values and service to members and their communities has set it apart.

As the nation's largest fraternal benefit society and a Fortune 500 financial services organization with more than \$70 billion in assets under management, Thrivent Financial offers:

- **Simple, affordable solutions to everyday financial needs**, including protecting your income and family, saving money, planning for retirement and leaving a legacy to your family, church or favorite charity.
- **Opportunities to support our church, community and people in need.** In 2007, Thrivent Financial members carried out more than 200 volunteer projects every day, including packing meals for the hungry, helping families pay unexpected medical bills and painting Sunday School classrooms. In addition, Thrivent Financial and its members built more than 350 homes with Habitat for Humanity and generated more than \$300 million for churches, non-profits and people in need.

**To learn more about how Thrivent Financial can strengthen your life and the lives of others, contact John Ungerman, Senior Financial Consultant at 610-970-4740 or [john.ungerman@thrivent.com](mailto:john.ungerman@thrivent.com) today, or visit [thrivent.com](http://thrivent.com).**