

the Spirit of St. James



St. James Lutheran Church, 1101 High Street, Pottstown, Pennsylvania, 19464 • (610) 326-2810 • APRIL 2010

OUR MISSION FOR ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Pastor's Message

“Peace be with you”.

That's the first thing that Jesus says to his disciples when he appears to them in resurrected form. The purpose and meaning of those words are to tell them that everything is, and will be, all right. That, despite the horrible things that happened to Jesus, through the Resurrection God has brought goodness out of all that was bad. So when he appears to them he basically says: 'relax and trust that the God who raised me out of death, is powerful and good, and will take care of you too'.

Over the last month or so, almost a hundred of you have contacted our office about coming in for a visit with the pastor. Those meetings have been a joy for me to learn how you are doing, but also for me to remind you of the same thing that Jesus reminded his followers after Easter morning. That God is great and that his desire is to bring good for us out of a world where things can go bad. That, as his baptized children, we are constantly and will be forever, recipients of this grace that God brings to us through Christ.

So *“spiritual health”* is simply having a sense of that peace which Jesus imparted to his followers. A peace “that knows no understanding”; a peace that enables us to trust God for “things unseen”; a peace that possesses the character of faith to withstand suffering so as to even “produce hope” as we look forward to God's blessings.

Where do we get such *peace* and *spiritual health*? It really begins and ends with the resurrection of Christ. And from there, it comes to us in the form of the practices of our faith that sprout forth from Christ's church like crocus in the spring: worship, regular prayer, learning about Jesus, giving back to him our time and treasures, and sharing that faith in God with others in life. These practices are all things like exercise and vitamins and proper nourishment that can help our soul to be spiritually healthy.

If you didn't get a chance to come in for a visit, please know that you always are welcome at anytime. For the grace of God here at St. James is like the promise of the resurrection. It's not just for the few, but for all who hunger for it and journey as yet by faith.

Peace be with you, for Christ is risen indeed!

Blessings,

Pastor

Sunday Schedule

Worship

8 and 10:45 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship

9 a.m.

Youth Choir Rehearsal

10:10 a.m.

Children's Church

10:45 a.m.

Holy Communion Weekly

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday
9 a.m. – noon
Friday
CLOSED

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Each and Every Member of St. James

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OFFICE NOTES

Newsletter Deadline for May 2010 Edition: April 15, 2010

Article submissions can be sent by e-mail to 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.

Master Calendar / Room Scheduling

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

Resignation Announced

We are sad to announce that our **Music Director and Organist, Sharon McCabe**, will be moving on to another position soon. Sharon has accepted a full-time position as Music Director at The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit in Emmaus, PA. From Sharon's perspective, this position is a great opportunity for her to do what she loves on a full time basis within the context of a good Christian worshipping community. The pastor at Emmaus, Rick Ellio,; the former pastor of New Hanover Lutheran Church, is a fine man and pastor. Their church (which also hosts a Rejoicing Spirits service) is an active and growing church that is busy doing God's work. So we commend Sharon to their continued service for the Lord. We will send her off with blessings and prayers from us. **She expects that her last Sunday will be May 16.**

As to what happens here at St. James, we will trust in the Spirit of God to continue to sustain our church in all that we do, including our music program. It is assumed that we will use supply musicians through the summer until, by the grace of God, he sends us a more permanent replacement.

EVENTS and WORSHIP in HOLY WEEK

Thursday, April 1st Soup Supper at 6 p.m.

Please join us for a simple soup and salad supper prior to worship on Maundy Thursday. Sign up in Horn Hall if you plan to attend.

Maundy Thursday Worship at 7 p.m.

There will be a traditional **Maundy Thursday worship at 7 p.m.**, with Holy Communion celebrated using the *Unfailing 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 2nd Prayer Walk



On Good Friday, April 2nd, 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 at 7 p.m.

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



Sunday, April 4th The Resurrection of our Lord Worship at 8 and 10:45 a.m.

Worship includes **Holy Communion and special music and 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.**

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.

Please join The Hill School for an ecumenical celebration of
The Great Vigil of Easter
as observed on the eighth day of Easter.

April 10th at 8:00 p.m.
The Alumni Memorial Chapel
at The Hill School

Bishop Claire Burkat of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will preside at Communion. Bring hand-held bells of any shape to ring in the resurrection!

Parking is available in the Center for the Arts parking lot on Beech Street.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

WORSHIP NOTES

**Celebrating 5th Anniversary
April 14, 2010**



At April's Rejoicing Spirits we will be celebrating our 5th anniversary of Rejoicing Spirits at St. James! We will have **special music that night by Courtney Daniels**, known for her singing at Relay for Life and other local events. We will also have **music from Naomi Fureman**, one of our own Rejoicers. **Music will begin at 6:55 p.m.** Following our worship we will have **cake and punch** to help mark the occasion.

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.

Memorial Service for Howard Snyder

There will be a Memorial Service for Howard Snyder on **Saturday, April 24th at 10:00 AM at St. James.**

This will be a spoken service with reflections offered by some of us who knew Howard and appreciated his service to and connection with St. James. All are invited to attend. Please feel free to contact Ted Baer or Pastor for more details.

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.

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.

2010 Third Sunday Offering Schedule

MAY – Volunteer Home Care
JUNE - Salvation Army
JULY – School supplies for children (Cluster Outreach Center)
AUGUST – Homeless Ministries of Pottstown
SEPTEMBER – Lutheran World Relief
OCTOBER – Cluster Outreach Center
NOVEMBER – Lutheran Theological Seminary (Seminary Sunday)
DECEMBER – ELCA World Hunger

Sunday Adult Education Begins at 9:30 a.m.

In the Blue Room Beginning April 11th

From Beginning to End: Studies in Revelation:

For many in the church, Revelation is a confusing book. Martin Luther himself thought the images in Revelation were incomprehensible and found the book's meaning unclear. It is a book that disturbs us and, especially given many popular interpretations, frightens us.

The bizarre, confusing images, however, have inspired poets and artists, musicians and movie-makers. These images also offer us glimpses into who Jesus is and who we are called to be in response. This 6-week Bible study will explore these images of Christ found in Revelation:

- **The Freeing Jesus**
Revelation 1:4-8
- **The Slain Jesus**
Revelation 5:11-14
- **The Cleansing Jesus**
Revelation 7:9-17
- **The Renewing Jesus**
Revelation 21:1-6
- **The Enlightening Jesus**
Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5
- **The Coming Jesus**
Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21



In the Adult Study Class

Seasons of the Spirit 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. **Individuals can join this class anytime.**

Altar Flowers, Eternal Light, Bulletin Sponsorships

The cost of each sponsorship is \$15 for eternal light, \$30 for altar flowers, and \$15 for bulletins. Envelopes are available in Horn Hall on the resource table. Cash or check payment can be placed in offering or turned in to the office. Sign up sheets are posted in Horn Hall for anyone interested.

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** .

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!

DISCIPLESHIP and FELLOWSHIP and SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Salvation Army Community Lunch

Each second Wednesday of the month a group of volunteers from St. James prepares and serves the community lunch at the Salvation Army. **This month it will be held April 14.** Help is needed at different times between 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Contact Jean Drauschak at 610-323-1792.

Blood Pressure Checks *Second Sunday of the month*

Stay well! Blood Pressure checks will be on **April 11th** after each service.

Blood Drive

Our next Miller-Keystone Blood Drive is **Monday, May 3rd** from **2 – 7:30 p.m.** **Due to the rummage sale, Miller-Keystone will be bringing a bus.** Please remember to keep May 3rd available and contact Ellen Ibach at 610-323-4477 to make an appointment to give.



Mark Your Calendar for Church Picnic

The annual St. James Picnic will be on **Saturday, July 31st** from **noon – 4 p.m.** at Warwick Park, Pavilion #2.

WELCA Rummage Sale

Mark your calendars! The WELCA Spring Rummage Sale will take place on **May 3 and 4.** More info to come. Time to start spring cleaning!

Women of the ELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study

The next WELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study will be held at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Pennsburg, on **Tuesday, April 6, 2010, at 10 a.m. with coffee at 9:30.** The leader will be Barbara Zwicky presenting *Holy Hospitality* (Romans 15:7)

The May Bible Study will be held at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Pottstown, on **Tuesday, May 4, 2010,** with Sheila Specht presenting *Wise is What is Good* (Romans 16:19)

All women are invited to participate in these Bible Studies based on the theme *To God's Beloved: Paul's Letter to the Romans.* Study materials are found in Lutheran Women Today magazine. Subscriptions are available for \$12 per year. This is the 25th year of meeting and sharing together. Bring your friends. We welcome inter-denominational viewpoints. If you would like to attend, please contact Grace Schafer for carpooling.



Save the Date June 13, 2010

On **Sunday, June 13, 2010** we will celebrate the **three year anniversary of our Capital Campaign**. Look for details in the May newsletter

Spaghetti Dinner April 23rd from 4:30 to 7 p.m.

The next Work Mission Spaghetti Diner is being planned for Friday, April 23rd 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 New Orleans 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.



BACA Concert – May 16th

The Boyertown Area Choral Association, under the direction of Margaretta R. Lamb, will hold their annual Spring Concert at St. James on Sunday, **May 16th at 3:00 p.m.**

This will be Peg Lamb's last concert as director of B.A.C.A. If you would like to be a sponsor of the concert or would like to bake for the reception following the concert, please contact Janis Lunn, 610-367-8762 or send your donation to Janis Lunn, 264 Buchert Rd., Gilbertsville, PA 19525. Please invite everyone to our concert.

Crucifer and Acolyte Training

On **Sunday, April 25th following the 10:45 a.m. worship**, we will be training all young people (1st grade or older) interested in becoming a crucifer or an acolyte. Those who have served as crucifers or acolytes are welcome (and encouraged) to refresh their understanding and to encourage others. You will be fitted with an alb and given instructions. Parents are welcome to sit in! Please let Suzanne Rigg (610-362-2810 or srigg@stjamespottstown.org) know if you plan to attend.



News from the Pottstown Cluster

Current needs for the food pantry:

Sizes 4-6 diapers, baby wipes, low sodium soups, juice, Good Start formula, individual size boxed cereal, canned fish, peanut butter, plain oatmeal, spam, toothpaste.

and for the clothing closet:

Spring and summer clothes, sizes include 2T for both boys and girls and 12 month boys, sheets (queen, king size), silverware, pots and pans

Donations for the Cluster can be brought to St. James and placed in the basket by the lower level mailboxes located at the bottom of the stairs closest to the parking lot. Donations can also be taken directly to the Cluster.

Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities

137 Walnut Street Pottstown, PA 19464
(610) 970-5995

Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday,
9 AM-12 Noon

Free Monthly Forum on the Needs and Care of the Aging

Grace Lutheran Church in Royersford continues to host a monthly meeting/forum for people to gather, receive access to information and to ask questions of professionals to help them with the challenges of providing care for themselves or others. Presenters will include social workers, visiting nurses, doctors, lawyers, and hospice workers.

All sessions are free and will be held at **Grace Lutheran Church (6th and Main Sts. Royersford) on the third Monday of the month, from 7- 8:30 p.m. Registration is appreciated and can be done by calling the church office at 610-948-3684.**

April 19 – Veterans Affairs – A Look at Veterans Benefits – Do I Qualify? – John Nowak

May 17 – Elder Law – POA vs. Guardianships, Living Wills, Estate Planning. Presenter – Esquire Robert Slutsky

Shredding Event

Tri-County Associates are hosting a shredding event on Saturday, April 17, 2010 from 9 a.m. to noon. Protect your credit card statements, legal papers, financial records, income tax files and other confidential materials by having them shredded by PROSHRED.

No boxes or bags will be accepted prior to the event. Please personal documents only, no businesses.

We will be accepting monetary donations for the Salvation Army and collecting nonperishable items for the Pottstown Cluster.

The Pottstown Area Relay for Life is June 5, 2010.

The following Relay activities are upcoming:

April 17th - Bark for Life at Limerick Community Park.

May 10th - Friendly's restaurant. Come to Friendly's and enjoy a meal. Our team gets 10% of the sales that evening.

If you have questions about any of the Relay activities or would like to join the team, please see Pat Baer, Carol Keller, Janis Lunn, Annette Renn or Tracie Rheel.



Thank You Notes

Thank you to all who provided food for our Lenten Soup Suppers in February and March. As always the variety of soup and qualities of soup is great and the bread and salad are always welcomed additions to the meal.

Thank you to our Lenten Hospitality Team for their great work again this year in helping us with the Lenten Soup Suppers.

Thank you to all who helped with cleaning up after the soup suppers. Your extra help was much appreciated.

MEMBER NEWS



April Birthdays

1 - Bob Jerdon; 3 - Jim Meloy; 4 - Mary Jane Bealer; 5- Misha Hutchison; 6 - Cindy Bush, Connie Worrall; 7- Hailey Krasley; 8 - Joan Griffith; 10 - Jean Drauschak; 12 - April Taylor; 15 – Rob Krasley; 16 - Pat Weber; 18 - Megan Mace; 19 - Diana Kuchenbrod, Earl Moyer; 21 – Kim Weaner, Duke Kinckiner; 22 - Joe Mittura; 24 - Kevin Wert; 26 - Florence Gallino, Greg Svanda; 28 – Evelyn Szczepanski; 30 – Phil Hackett, Amy Koons



Birth Announcements

Congratulations to Craig and Connie Snider upon the birth of their daughter, **Christelle Matea Snider**.

Congratulations to Jenni DuVal (and grandparents Mindy and Bob DuVal) upon the birth of her son, **Jacob Palmer DuVal**

TREASURER'S REPORT

	Feb 2010	Year to Date
INCOME	\$25,917.52	\$ 46,033.25
EXPENSES	- 22,209.17	- 45,043.03
NET INCOME	\$ 3,708.35	\$990.22
REGULAR ENVELOPES		
Received	\$ 18,098.50	\$ 32,758.50
Needed*	19,717.89	39,436.15
Over (Under)	(\$ 1,619.39)	(\$ 6,677.65)
THIRD SUNDAY OFFERING		
ELCA Disaster Response: Haiti Earthquake (includes matching gift)		
Collected	\$ 3,270.00	
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN		
	Feb – 2010	Total Campaign
Income	\$ 3,879.00	\$420,946.75

*Amount required to balance the budget.

Deepest Sympathies

To the family and friends of Howard Snyder

To Mary Vickerman upon the death of her mother.

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

Cyndi Krasley- Vice-President 484-945-0165
Email: nannahsdmb@gmail.com

Barbara Ungerman - Secretary 610-718-9368
Email: bungerman@comcast.net

Dave Garner – Treasurer 610-970-7560
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