

the Spirit of St. James



St. James Lutheran Church, 1101 High Street, Pottstown, Pennsylvania, 19464 • (610) 326-2810 • APRIL 2008

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.

Children's Church

10:45 a.m.

Adult Education Classes

9:30 a.m.

Holy Communion Weekly



OFFICE HOURS

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

Friday
8 a.m. – noon

TELEPHONE

610-326-2810

Fax: 610-326-1025

www.stjamespottstown.org

STAFF

Ministers

Each and Every Member of St. James

Pastor

The Rev. Peter Hutchinson
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home 610-718-0313

Director of Discipleship

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office 610-326-2810
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Secretary

Darlene Jackson
e-mail:
secretary@stjamespottstown.org

Director of Music Ministries

Sharon MacCabe
Email: sharonbmaccabe@comcast.net
Office: 610-326-2810

Custodian

Larry Kehler
home: 610-327-2238

Missionaries

Dr. Stephen & Becky Thorson
Kathmandu, Nepal

Newsletter Editor

Dawn Detweiler
newsletterstj@wi.rr.com

OFFICE NOTES

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 '08 Edition: April 15, 2007

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.

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!

Altar Flowers, Eternal Light Bulletin Sponsorships

The cost for each sponsorship is \$15 for eternal light, \$40 for altar flowers, and \$15 for bulletins. Sign up sheets are posted in Horn Hall for anyone interested. 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.

New Life Everlasting

I think my rose bush has died. As spring is upon us, if you stop and look around, you can see the crocuses and daffodils popping up, and buds appearing, I am reminded of how each spring the plants, which for months have been as if there is no more life in them, suddenly seem to return to life and the grandeur that they held before.

This reminds me too of how God does the same kind of wonderful and amazing things within our lives. That all year long God brings us back from the dormancy of when bad things happen to restore our souls and refresh us with his grace. Sometimes we may have to stop and pay attention to see these kinds of resurrection events, but there is no denying they are there.

Now, back to my rose bush. It's a pretty little thing; a miniature that just last summer produced many brilliant red flowers, some of which I even clipped and brought in the house. It sits in a prominent spot in the landscape, but it may not "come back to life".

If it has died though and that is the end of it, then the analogy of plants in the spring fails. Because unlike the plants, when we, and those who hold a prominent spot in our lives, die, that is not the end of things. In the resurrection of Jesus the Christ, we see what God has promised to all those who are rooted in him. Through our faith in Christ and in his sacrifice for our sins and his resurrection, we know that we will share the same blessing of a new life after death. And when we come to life again, in the grandeur of the kingdom, we will produce a beauty that is not the same, but immeasurably more profound than any we were able to show in this lifetime.

So while my rose bush may have died, surely so will we all at some point, through the resurrection God will bring us now, and in the future, to be like a flowering plant of new life that will never lose its bloom.

PASTOR



WORSHIP NOTES



Sunday Morning Adult Education

The following is a schedule of the new studies beginning in April and May for adults on Sunday mornings:

April 6 -27: "The Power of Forgiveness," a study which includes a very good video and discussion with Pastor Hutchinson.

May 4 -25: "Politics and Religion," a study lead by Pastor Hutchinson

All these classes will be in the Blue Room at 9:30 a.m. Also each week there is a bible study in the Adult Study Class focusing on the lessons heard each week in worship. Please feel free to attend one of these classes anytime.

Prayers

First Sunday of the Month

Beginning in April and going forward, we will be **asking the congregation for prayer requests** that will be included in the prayers that morning, similar to what we did during worship on Wednesday nights in Lent. Prayer requests may be for people we know or do not know; for prayers of thanksgiving or for prayers for those in need; for those in our community or for those in other parts of the world. We will also continue on the first Sunday of the month to include in the prayers the names of those on our prayer list.

April's Rejoicing Spirits worship will be on **Wednesday, April 9 at 7 p.m.** when we will be **celebrating our third 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. Join us on this special night of celebration.

Being a Disciple of Christ

Please remember your commitment card.

During this season of Lent we have asked all to reflect on the areas of devotion God called the "marks of discipleship". We have encouraged you to consider dedicating and committing yourself to being a more diligent follower of Jesus Christ in at least one of these areas.

If you have not already done so, prayerfully consider pledging to God, yourself, and to the church, a more faithful discipline of practice in your life as a Christian. In doing so, please complete the commitment cards that were mailed in March. Check off any areas on the card in which you feel you can further your dedication and love of God in Christ **and return them to the church in either the offering plates, via the mail, or in person.** Keep a commitment card for yourself to remind you of your pledge. If you did not receive any commitment cards, please contact the church office (610-326-2810) and we will send them to you.

Based on your responses, we will do our part to continue to provide opportunities for you to practice your enhanced discipleship through programs within the church.

Third Sunday Offering

APRIL Recipient Visiting Nurse Association

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.

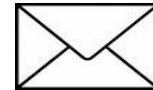
Third Sunday Offering Schedule

MAY – Volunteer Home Care
JUNE - Salvation Army
JULY - School supplies for children
AUGUST - Missionaries
SEPTEMBER - Lutheran World Relief
OCTOBER - Cluster Outreach Center
NOVEMBER - open
DECEMBER - ELCA World Hunger



CALLED
TO SHARE
HIS
LIGHT

- Work on the elevator has begun and scheduled to be completed late May or early June.
- Total amount given to date is approximately \$205,170.



Catching Up On Offerings

When you are unable to attend worship on any given Sunday, please make up that day's offering the next week. St. James' budget is based on members' weekly offering pledge times 52 Sundays. When you and your offering are absent, our ministry is diminished.

DISCIPLESHIP and FELLOWSHIP and SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Women of the ELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study

The next WELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study will be held at Grace Lutheran, Pottstown Limerick on **April 1st at 10 a.m. with coffee at 9:30.** The leader will be Ethel DeWitt presenting *Making Peace and Being Peace.*

The May Bible Study will be held on May 6th at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Pottstown, with Sheila Specht presenting *Blessing in the Midst of Suffering.*

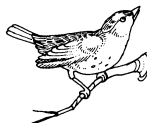
All women are invited to participate in these Bible Studies based on the theme "Blessed to follow: The Beatitudes as a Compass for Discipleship".

This is the 23rd year of meeting and sharing together. Bring your friends. We welcome interdenominational viewpoints. If you would like to attend, please contact Grace Schafer or Mary Arnt for carpooling.

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. Help is needed at different times between 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Contact Jean Drauschak at 610-323-1792.

Upper Montgomery Conference WELCA Spring Gathering



The Upper Montgomery Conference of WELCA will be holding their Spring Gathering **on Saturday, April 12th** at St. John Lutheran Church, 75 E. Main Street, South Pottstown. Pastor Susan Folks will speak on "Bring Peace through Diversity"

Registration and social time begins at 9 a.m.; meeting commences at 9:30 a.m. Each person is to bring one canned good for the local food pantry.

All women are welcome to attend. For carpooling information please contact Grace Schafer (610-326-4814) or Mary Arnt (610-323-6176).

Community Meal

This month, volunteers are needed April 24 to provide desserts, cook, set up and clean up. For more information, please call Susan Cameron at 610-718-9926.

Blood Pressure Checks

Stay well! Blood Pressure checks will be **April 6th after each service.**

Blood Drive

The next blood drive is **Monday, April 7th** from **2 - 7:30 p.m.** Please contact Marge Fegley at 610-323-3936 to make an appointment to give.

Spaghetti Dinner

April 4, 2008
4:30 to 7 p.m.

The next Work Mission Spaghetti Diner is being planned for Friday April 4th in Horn Hall. The price remains the same as well as the menu.

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.



Relay For Life News

The next relay event is on **April 19th** at Riverfront Park in Pottstown. It's a one-mile walk for you and your dog. Registration begins at 9 a.m. You can register on line or see Pat Baer for a registration form. Pastor Hutchinson will be blessing the dogs at 9:30 when the walk begins.

Some of our team will be at the park selling baked goods and other goodies. Please come out and support the Pottstown Relay for Life teams (with or without a dog!).

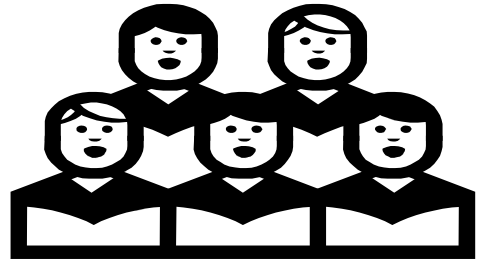
Relay Thank You

Thank you to everyone who bought peanut butter cups and nutrolls for our Easter fundraiser!

Concert for Social Justice

April 27, 2008 at 4 p.m.

The concert features the **Choirs from St. James Lutheran Church and Kimberton Waldorf Schools**. All proceeds will be donated to "Save Darfur Coalition." Please invite your friends and neighbors to this very special concert.



Boyertown Area Choral Association Concert

Boyertown Area Choral Association under the direction of Marguerite (Peg) Lamb, will be **at St. James** on Sunday, **May 18 at 3 p.m.** presenting their Spring Concert, "Here's to Our America."

If you would like to be a **patron for the concert or bake for the social after the performance, please see Janis Lunn** or call her at 610-367-8762. We need your support!

Please mark your calendars and invite all your friends and family.

Thank You Notes



Most of us don't know or appreciate the volunteer work of **Joe Mitura** who tends to our computers. That's because its one of those "behind the scenes" jobs at the church that doesn't get much visibility but nonetheless is very important. Joe sees to it that our computer systems are running smoothly and are up to date with the latest software and hardware. So when you get a chance sometime, thank Joe for helping us to be able to do all that we need to with our technology. And on behalf of the church, Pastor and the staff thanks him too!

Thank you our to our Lenten Hospitality Team for their time and service working behind the scenes and making our Lenten Soup Suppers a success. Special thanks to **Ron and Grace Schafer Dottie Smith, Sara Jane Silver, Warren Emery, Larry Wert, Barbara and John Ungerman, Ruby Starling, Vanessa Thompson, Bob Rheel, Rob and Cyndi Krasley and the many others** who helped.

Thank you to our great cooks for all the wonderful soups we had during the Lenten Soup Suppers. Thanks also to the many who donated bread and salad to complete our meals.

Thank you to **Stephanie Groff** for donating much needed new markers for Children's Church. The gift is very much appreciated.

Thank you to the many who contributed food and drink for our Seder Meal and for all who helped to set up, serve, and clean up. Everyone's contribution makes this meal a success.

Thanks to **Ted Baer** who worked our sound system most Wednesday nights in Lent for worship and also at Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship.

Thank you to the generous individuals who supplied the candy and prizes for our Easter Egg Hunt. Your donations sweetened up Easter Day for many of the children.

Thank you to all who substitute as assisting ministers last minute as needed.

Thank you to the **Altar Guild** and others who helped transform our worship space from a Lenten theme to a space of Easter glory.

Thank you to the many individuals who helped to make our Potluck Easter Breakfast a success. Thank you to the members of the **Adult Sunday School** classes for their labor in setting up, serving and cleaning up. Thanks also to all who provided the good food that was shared.

Pastor and Debbie would like to thank everyone who sent Easter cards and gave gifts to them: We are always grateful for the love and appreciation that is shown to us at St. James. And we thank God for blessing us with a call to serve here.

MEMBER NEWS

April Birthdays

1 - Bob Jerdon; 3 - Jim Meloy; 4 - Mary Jane Bealer, Hailey Krasley, Janet Miller; 6 - Cindy Bush, Connie Worrall; 8 - Joan Griffith; 10 - Jean Drauschak; 12 - April Taylor; 13 - Chelle Krasley; 15 - Rob Krasley; 16 - Pat Weber; 17 - Joan Gardiner; 18 - Megan Mace; 19 - Diana Kuchenbrod, Earl Moyer; 20 - Bernie Roth; 21 - Duke Kinckiner; 22 - Joe Mittura; 24 - Kevin Wert; 26 - Florence Gallino, Greg Svanda; 30 - Edmond Gallino, Amy Koons



Meet Our New Members Part 2

Craig and Connie Snider both were born and grew up west of Pennsylvania. Craig was born in Lafayette, IN and grew up in Attica, IN. Connie was born in Berrien Springs, MI and grew up in Baroda, MI. Both of them lived in Indiana prior to coming east. Connie has her PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences and works as a research scientist for Elan. Craig completed graduate school and is a licensed registered nurse and works as a personal trainer for Final Results Fitness. Connie interests and hobbies include fitness and decorating and Craig enjoys movies, outdoor recreation and fitness activities. They come to St. James from University Lutheran Church.

Gregory (Gregg) Svanda grew up in California, Ohio and Pennsylvania. He is a graduate of Conestoga Sr. High School, Philadelphia Community College, and Philadelphia Restaurant School. Previously Gregg has worked as a chef and manager in the food service industry but currently is enjoying a less stressful career as a tractor trailer driver. Gregg has two sons, Collin (13 yrs. old) and Samuel (10 yrs. old). He enjoys reading, camping, fishing and being with his two sons. Gregg comes to St. James from St. Luke's Lutheran Church.

Deepest Sympathies

to the family and friends of George Neiffer.



Memorial Contributions

Given in memory of Barry Trate

Stu Gehris and Rosy Ciatto, Ted and Pat Baer, Jon and Martha Fink, Pat and Ted Weber, William and Joan Gardiner, Barbara Thornton, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Schafer, St. James Bell and Chancel Choir, Mr. and Mrs. Chester Pish, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Perry, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Dentler, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Riegel, Miller Family, Mr. and Mrs. John Hegedress, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Raneiri, Mr. Carl Ecker, Mr. and Mrs. Gene Smith, Arkema, Inc., Frank Deery, Moyer's Meats, Elizabeth Hatfield, Wilbert & Cora Sharp, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Lengyel, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Schodle, Jr., Charles A. Gilliland, Uwchlan American Legion, Margaret A. Tartar, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Osiecki, Twin County Jr. Am. Legion, Baseball League, Willard and Margaret Bickel, Ray and June Henninger, Ellen Jameson, Elaine Christman, Gladys Evans, Fay Saylor, Mr. and Mrs. Brad Bingham, Joan Griffith, Mr. and Mrs. William Surgeoner, Mrs. Mildred Ginder, Mrs. Elizabeth Bartko, Doug & Dorothy Keeler, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Casner, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Farina, Edward Clement Sweeney, Annette Renn, Richard and Linda Skarbek, Mr. and Mrs. James Skarbek, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Skarbek, Mike and Melinda Mace, Mr. Geoffrey W. Preston, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Starcevic, Dennis & Dee Bartchak, Thomas Jane McCahill, Berks County Area Junior Legion League, Joseph and Susan Compton, Laverne R. Henry

CHURCH COUNCIL INFO

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.

Ron Schafer - President 610-326-4814
Email: ronslibrary@aol.com

Pat Baer - Vice President 610-326-8598
Email: pattedbaer@verizon.net

Vickie Kirsten - Secretary 484-300-4915
Email: vjkirsten@comcast.net

Sherry Clancy - Treasurer 610-323-5977
Email: srclancy@comcast.net

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

Mike Lunn 610-367-8762
Email: lunns2@dejazzd.com

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Email: meadow1135@hotmail.com

Jessica Mitchell 610-970-4250
Email: jrabbit23@comcast.net

TREASURER'S REPORT

	<u>Feb-2008</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$ 18,689.33	\$ 37,043.06
Expenses	<u>28,456.15</u>	<u>49,776.48</u>
Net Income	(\$9,766.82)	(\$12,733.42)

Regular Envelopes

Received	\$15,061.00	\$30,671.00
Needed*	<u>19,498.94</u>	<u>38,997.89</u>
Over (Under)	(\$4,437.94)	(\$8,326.89)

Third Sunday Offering

Collected	\$351.00	Seminary Support
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Capital Campaign

	<u>Feb-2008</u>	<u>Total Campaign</u>
Income	\$5,053.00	\$205,170.02

*Amount required to balance the budget.