

the Spirit of St. James



St. James Lutheran Church, 1101 High Street, Pottstown, Pennsylvania, 19464 • (610) 326-2810 • AUGUST 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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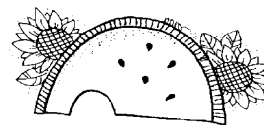
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Summer Schedule

Worship

9 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship

10 a.m.

Children's Message

2nd and 4th Sundays of the Month

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

e-mail: pastorh@stjamespottstown.org

home 610-718-0313

Director of Discipleship

Suzanne Rigg

e-mail: srigg@thehill.org

office 610-326-2810

home 610-970-4865

Secretary

Darlene Jackson

e-mail: secretary@stjamespottstown.org

Director of Music Ministries

Sharon MacCabe

email: sharonmaccabe@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

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 September '08 Edition: August 15, 2008

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.

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.

Weekly Bulletin Announcements on the Website

Weekly bulletin announcements can be found on the St. James' website under the News section. This section is updated weekly so you can know what is happening from week to week even if you miss worship due to vacations and other summer plans. Check it out for yourself at www.stjamespottstown.org.



A Note From Pastor Hutchinson

Finding God in the Movies

That's what 'Movie Night' is all about. Each summer the last few years, we have provided the opportunity to watch movies together one week-night each week for the month of August. It has been a fun time, with not only good movies but also with popcorn and drinks provided – all for free! What a deal!

But we also talk briefly after the movie is over about the idea of looking for and finding images of God, the messages of the bible, and often the story of Jesus the Christ, in the movies. Most often, the movies we watch are not really religious movies. BUT THAT'S JUST THE POINT!

What 'Movie Night' is designed to help us do, is not only have a good time of fellowship and entertainment,...but to help us to begin to look for God in places other than where we might expect or assume to find him. That is because God is present and his grace and his will for us and his revelation to us in Jesus, is all around us all the time. In the books we read, in the people we meet, in the situations we encounter in daily life, and yes, in the movies.

Ask someone who has been to Movie Night, and they ought to tell you that we not only have a good time and see good movies, but that the experience has helped them to think about God and the story of Jesus in particular, as it continues to play itself out in places other than the hour we spend in church Sunday morning. And, after all, isn't that where God is the rest of the week - in the stories of our daily lives, reaching out to us with his will, his wisdom, his grace?

So we hope to see you at Movie Night again this year, each Tuesday evening at 6:30 at St. James.

PASTOR

***August Movie Line-up
next page***

MOVIE NIGHT LINE-UP



Week One (Aug. 5th) – ***“The Straight Story”*** (1999 Rated G) – Mr. Straight is an elderly man living with and is totally dependent on his daughter (who is a single mom) discovers that his brother is dying. The two had had their differences and been estranged for years, but now he wants to go and see and reconcile with his brother before he dies. But there are several problems. Without a car or driver’s license and since his daughter is unable to take him, he has no way to get to his brother who lives several states away. So he decides to set out on his own,....on his John Deere riding mower. On the way in his adventure he meets and even helps people who are in their own struggles, until finally he arrives at his brother’s house. It’s a sweet story as well as a great story about the pursuit of reconciliation, reminding us of how much God wants us to be reconciled with him.

Week Two (Aug. 12th) – ***“A Midnight Clear”*** (1992 Rated R) – The story takes place near the end of World War II. An American intelligence platoon discovers that, not too far from where they are camped, is an isolated small group of German soldiers. As the two realize the other’s presence, they are at first leery of the other until finally they begin to communicate, first by launching snowballs instead of bombs. Knowing that the war is almost over, the Germans are more interested in living than fighting and dying and yet they are hesitant to surrender. Eventually the two groups come together, but the path to putting aside suspicions and hostility and laying down arms is not easy or simply. It’s a great story and a good lesson about how our flawed human tendencies can too often cause us to view others different than us in a way that is not godly or Christ-like.

Week Three (Aug. 19th) – ***“Away from Her”*** (2007 Rated PG 13) – A moving story about a married couple who has entered their “golden years”. They are relatively well-off and, in their retirement, are active and happy together. But they find that the wife has begun to suffer from dementia. As she realizes this she suggests that, for the good of the two of them, she should enter into a facility that can care for her better than her husband is able to. He reluctantly agrees, but then is thrust into a situation where he must make even greater sacrifices for the love that he feels for his wife. It’s a touching story and one that exemplifies what Christ-like sacrificial love is about in difficult real life situations.

Week Four (Aug. 26th) – ***“Babett’s Feast”*** (1988 Rated G) – In a small village on an island off the coast of Denmark, live a community of people (Lutherans, actually) who are led by two spinsters. They are the daughters of the community’s beloved deceased pastoral leader who had instructed them over the years in the virtues of austere living and self-denial. Based on this teaching (as well as the stark place where they live) the village experienced very little joy in their lives. Then, along comes Babbett, who was once a cook in the finest hotel in Paris, who the sisters take her in to be their servant/maid. When Babbett discovers that she has won the lottery in France, she takes the opportunity to show her hosts (and the townspeople) her appreciation in preparing a supper that they (and you) will never forget. It’s a wonderful story and an even more wonderful story about pure unadulterated grace, like the kind of grace that God shows us.

WORSHIP NOTES



The Next Rejoicing Spirits worship at St. James will be **Wednesday, August 13, 2008 at 7 p.m.** All are welcome!

Please 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, give it a try and see for yourself the love and joy that is shared among all who attend.

Covenant Players August 10, 2008

The Covenant Players will be performing at St. James during worship at **9 a.m. on August 10.** The mission of Covenant Players is "to communicate the Lord Jesus Christ through the medium of drama." When Covenant Players began in 1963, drama in the church was an unknown, untried idea for many congregations. Forty years later, Covenant Players continues to serve the Lord Jesus Christ and the church throughout the world with touring units having performed throughout 82 countries on 6 continents in over 20 languages.

We welcome the Covenant Players to St. James and are hopeful that you will be able attend worship on August 10 to see their special performance for us. **A free-will offering will be collected** for the players.

Church Women in Hats Day

The Pastor's Aide Committee of Second Baptist Church thank God for the privilege of inviting you to join them in a wonderful service of praise on **Sunday, August 24, 2008 at 3:30 p.m.** for "Church Women in Hats Day" at Second Baptist Church, 507 North Adams Street. Please mark your calendar and **check your closet for your prettiest hat.**

This invitation is for all ladies from very young to old and for brothers in Christ too. The guest preacher will be Rev. Simmons of Newark, NJ.



Third Sunday Offering August Recipient Our Missionaries in Nepal

Our Third Sunday outreach offering for August will be given to support the work of our missionaries in Nepal, Dr. Stephen and Becky Thorson. The Thorsons through The World Mission Prayer League (WMPL) have been missionaries in Nepal for more than ten years. Over those years the Thorsons have visited St. James several times to share their experiences as missionaries and to give us their thanks. Stephen is a missionary pediatrician who teaches theology and also works as a doctor. He has been the author of several bible commentaries. The Thorsons stay in touch with us through cards and e-mails. Please considering giving to this month to support the Thorsons as they continue to do their ministry in a county that is sometime dangerous and in an environment not really open to Christianity as Nepal is 90 percent Hindu.

Upcoming Third Sunday Offering Schedule

SEPTEMBER - Lutheran World Relief
OCTOBER - Cluster Outreach

Nursery Attendants Needed

Do you love young children? If so, please consider sharing some of that love by serving in our nursery on Sunday mornings. Additional nursery attendants are needed for the nursery during our 10:45 a.m. service in the fall, winter and spring. Please contact Suzanne (610-326-2810) for more information or to express your interest in helping.



Children Church Leaders Needed

The fall is soon approaching when we will be returning to our normal schedule of two services and Children's Church. With the return of Children's Church in the fall we could use a few more individuals who would be willing to lead our Children's Church during the 10:45 service. Individuals can either lead our preschool-kindergarten group of children or our elementary children who are in grades 1-5. Children's Church leaders present a brief lesson and lead the children through an activity (game, craft, worksheet, etc.) that reinforces the lesson. Lesson plans and materials are provided. Leaders teach approximately 6 times a year. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Suzanne at 610-326-2810.

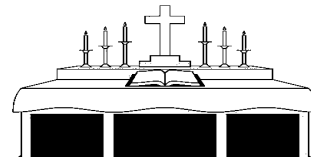
Let your light so shine . . . Get trained as an acolyte!



On **Sunday, September 28th** following the 10:45 a.m. worship, we will be training all young people (**1st grade or older**) interested in becoming acolytes. Those who have served as acolytes are welcome (and encouraged) to refresh their understanding and to encourage others. You will be fitted with an alb and given instruction sheets. Parents are welcome to sit in! **Please let Suzanne Rigg (610-362-2810) know if you plan to attend.**

Confirmation Class Starting in September

Pastor will be starting confirmation classes in September. Classes **meet on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:30 a.m.** Any parent who would like to enroll his or her child in this class should contact Pastor Hutchinson.



The Altar Guild is Looking for New Team Members

Altar Guild members are responsible for preparation of the paraments, candles, baptismal font and the altar for Holy Communion, in addition to caring for the paraments and the communion vessels. Members serve for one month at a time, approximately twice a year. Training will be provided. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Suzanne at 610-326-2810.

DISCIPLESHIP and FELLOWSHIP and SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

New Staff Member

We welcome to our staff A new custodian, Mr. Glenn Yerger. Glenn is retired from almost fifty years of work for Thriftway, and more recently, Renninger's supermarkets. For thirty of those years, Glenn was a Manager. He lives in Royersford. Please say hello to and welcome Glenn when you see him as he becomes familiar with the church and the people of St. James.



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.

Community Meal

This month, volunteers are needed August 28th to provide desserts, cook, set up and clean up for the community meal. For more information, please call Susan Cameron at 610-718-9926.

Blood Pressure Checks

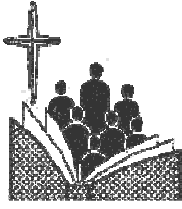
Stay well! Blood Pressure checks will be **August 3rd** after the 9 a.m. service.

Women of the ELCA Upper MontCo Bible Study August 5, 2008

The Women's Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study for the summer will be held at the Pottstown Diner, 99 W. King Street (rt. 100 and King St.) on Tuesday, August 5, 2008.

Bobbi Hoffman, Minister of Discipleship at St. James Lutheran Church, Limerick, will be the presenter. Please bring the June, July/August issues of Lutheran Women Today and your Bibles with you. Bobbi will help us explore the images and meanings of baptism and how baptism shapes our lives. "Come to the Waters" is an invitation to "walk wet" – to remember, affirm, and celebrate our baptism throughout life.

The Pottstown Diner will allow us to place individual breakfast orders from their menu and provide us with individual checks. The breakfast gathering will begin at 9 a.m. with the Bible Study to begin at approximately 10 a.m. Reservation can be made to Grace Schafer (610-326-4814) by August 1.



Faith and Leadership Academy

Our Synod's Faith and Leadership Academy is a six-week adventure in faith and discipleship. **Through lectures, discussions, prayer and mutual encouragement, participants discover new insights about their faith, their church and themselves.** Classes are led by seminary staff, pastors, and trained lay leaders.

The 2008 **session will run Saturdays**, October 11, 25 and November 1, 8, 15, and 22 **at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia from 9:15 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.** The Academy does not meet Saturday, October 18, due to the Synod Mission Fair.

If you would like more information or if you are interested in registering for the Academy, please contact Pastor Hutchinson or Suzanne Rigg. **There is no cost to any member who would like to attend.**

More VBS

If you were unable to make it to our VBS with St. John's U.C.C., please know that you are invited to:

RAINFOREST ADVENTURE

St. John Lutheran Church
75 East Main St. Pottstown
August 4th – 8th
5:30-8:00 p.m.
Dinner included.

For registration information please contact Penny Griffin at 610-970-5199 or Jennifer MacDonald at 21-541-9052

Cluster Outreach Center

Pantry Needs:

Canned fruit, snacks, saltine crackers, graham crackers, personal items (shampoo, conditioner, etc.) and diabetic foods (low sugar and sugar free).

Clothing & Household Needs:

Silverware, toasters, can openers, and twin size sheets.

Baby Needs:

Similac Advance with iron formula, diapers sizes 5,6 and newborn, stage 1 and 3 baby food.

Always needed:

Brown paper grocery bags, quart and gallon size Ziploc plastic bags (freezer or regular), empty water bottles with lids.

Donations can be brought to St. James on Sundays or donations are accepted at the Cluster on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays 9-11 a.m. and Wednesdays 3-5 p.m. Also from 9-11 a.m. on the first and third Saturdays of the month. The Cluster is located at 137 Walnut Street.

MEMBER NEWS

Memorial contributions

Given in memory of Nancy Schultz

from Joan Bartman, Willard Bickel, Gerald Bush, Jerry Catagnus, Richard Clark, Geraldine Davis, Don Egrie, Roland Ellis, Gladys Evans, Paul Moyer, Julia Stamy, Jane Trate

Thank You Notes

Thank you to Ellen Ibach and Janis Lunn for their extraordinary help and support towards July blood drive. Their extra effort made for a successful blood drive.

Thank you to Larry Wert for all the extra help and time that he has recently given towards doing some of the things that just needed to be done, including helping with the water issue in the archives room and taking the large delivery of clothing to the Cluster.

Thank you to John Ungerman for all the time he has given and continues to give in being the contact person for all the improvements and repairs being done through the capital campaign

Thank you to St. James from Dawn Detweiler on behalf of the Preeclampsia Foundation for the generous sponsorship of \$500 in support of the local golf outing to benefit the Foundation. The donation will aid in the mission of funding critical research and education, while increasing awareness about this pregnancy disorder.

New Address

Barbara Thornton
2461 E. High St., A-7
Pottstown, PA 19464

Pattie Schaeffer
44 N 10th Street, Apt #1
Reading PA 19601

August Birthdays

1 – Betty Darocha; 3 – Mary Littlefield;
4 – Warren Emery, Judy Kochel; 7- Sam
Davies; 8- Ava Fusco; 10 – Kyle Kirsten; 12
– Paul Eshbach; 13 – Dave Brewer, Taylor
Rothenberger, Scott Strichik; 15 – Aaron
Hoehne, Hank Hoehne, Josephine O’Neill,
Alyson Taylor; 16 – Isabel DuBois, Eleanor
Hetrick, Ron Schafer; 19 – Deb Geesey; 20
– Ruth Neiffer; 21 – Jackie Klaus; 22 –
William Degler, Donald Erb, Ryan Hall; 23 –
Cheryl Detweiler; 24 – Alisha Sandoe; 26 –
Eva Kehler; 28 – Michele Hoffman, David
Rothenberger; 29 – Chad Widmann; 30 – Rick
Geesey, Noelle Hartzman, Jason Matrone;
31 – Herbert Kenney



Gifts from the Friends of St. James

A gift of \$1000 was given to St. James towards installation of the new elevator as part of the Capital Campaign by Pastor’s parents, **Mr. and Mrs. T. Coerte Hutchinson.**

The Wyndcroft School donated \$150 toward the capital campaign in honor of Joan Gardiner.

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

Jim Irwin 323-1511
Email: jei1013hotmail.com

Scott Strichik 610-327-3108
Email: sstrichik@verizon.net

Mary Arnt 610-323-6176

David Hartzman 610-909-5806
Email: Crittersdad1949@aol.com

Tracie Rheel 610-323-7051
Email: trheel@comcast.net

Chipper Meadowcroft 610-327-0458
Email: meadow1135@hotmail.com

Carol Keller 610-326-1013
Email: shane550@aol.com

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

| TREASURER'S REPORT | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | <u>Jun-</u> 2008 | <u>Year to</u> Date |
| Income | \$ 25,993.71 | \$ 131,717.82 |
| Expenses | <u>20,804.67</u> | <u>159,130.44</u> |
| Net Income | \$5,189.04 | (\$27,412.62) |
| <u>Regular Envelopes</u> | | |
| Received | \$22,106.25 | \$103,893.30 |
| Needed* | <u>19,498.94</u> | <u>116,993.66</u> |
| Over (Under) | \$2,607.31 | (\$13,100.36) |
| <u>Third Sunday Offering</u> | | |
| Collected | \$337.25 | Salvation Army |
| <u>Capital Campaign</u> | | |
| | <u>Jun-2008</u> | <u>Total Campaign</u> |
| Income | \$9,232.00 | \$242,466.75 |

*Amount required to balance the budget.

