

the Spirit of St. James



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

One morning a few weeks ago, my wife and I woke up to find that the power was out due to some strong winds during an overnight storm. So when we finally got up, there we sat... and waited. We were certain that, in the not too distant future, the electricity would eventually come back on.

But during that time of waiting we were able to pay more attention to and even better appreciate the things around us. It was a quiet time as we prepared breakfast without the distraction of the noise from the radio's music, the coffee maker's gurgling, and the refrigerator's humming. And we ate breakfast by the light of several candles.

And so, while we were in the moment, we also still lived in the anticipation of what was to come and very much looked forward to that. It was a special time that portended the return of what we had come to know was good and helpful to us in life - the wonders of electricity.

For a very long time, the season of Advent has been such a time for Christians: a time of preparation for the celebration of when the Christ child comes into the world. A quiet and pensive time where we can pause to more fully appreciate all of what God has done and will do for us through Jesus. And, the season of Advent is a time of waiting. While the secular-oriented culture around us can't wait for Christmas to get here, Christians know that the time of anticipation is an important and meaningful part of the celebration that will happen. And so we light candles, and wait.

As we gradually get ready to once more revisit the story of God's power coming to us in the person of Jesus the Christ, let's live in the moment of the Advent season and know for certain that the goodness and help that God brings to us in Jesus, will surely come.

~ PASTOR

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship

8 and 10:45 a.m.

One service only on December 26th

Coffee Fellowship

9 a.m.

Adult Education Classes

9:30 a.m.

No classes December 5th and 26th

Youth Choir Rehearsal

9 a.m.

No rehearsal on December 26th

Children's Choir Rehearsal

10 a.m.

No rehearsal on December 26th

Children's Church

10:45 a.m.

*No Children's Church on
December 26th*

Holy Communion Weekly

***See Christmas worship schedule
on Page 3***



OFFICE HOURS

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

TELEPHONE

610-326-2810
www.stjamespottstown.org

STAFF

Ministers

Each and Every Member of St. James

Pastor

The Rev. Peter Hutchinson
Email: pastorh@stjamespottstown.org
home 610-718-0313

Director of Discipleship

Suzanne Rigg, Diaconal Minister
Email: srigg@thehill.org
office 610-326-2810
home 610-970-4865

Office Administrator

Pat Baer
Email: secretary@stjamespottstown.org
contact: 610-326-2810

Director of Music Ministries

Bruce W. Tonkin, A.I.M.
Email: htonkin@stjamespottstown.org
contact: 610-220-5457

Financial Administrator

Sherry Clancy
stjamespottstownfinance@gmail.com
contact: 610-326-2810

Custodian

Glenn Yerger
contact: 610-326-2810

Missionaries

Dr. Stephen & Becky Thorson
Kathmandu, Nepal

Volunteer Newsletter Editor

Dawn Detweiler
contact: newsletterstj@wi.rr.com

OFFICE NOTES

Newsletter Deadline for January 2011 Edition: December 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 Pat Baer by calling the office. Please indicate to her any need for room rearrangement, (extra chairs, tables) so proper preparations can be made.

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.

Weather Cancellations

For cancellations or changes in the Sunday morning schedule due to inclement weather, please call the church for a message or watch for an announcement on WFMZ Channel 69 or check their website at wfmz.com (look for St. James ELC).

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WORSHIP NOTES

Annual Meeting – Part One

Please plan to attend part one of the annual meeting to be held **between services on Sunday, December 5th at 9:30 a.m. in Horn Hall.** The agenda includes **the election of Council members and the adoption of the 2011 budget.** There will be no adult Sunday School classes on this day. **Part two of the annual meeting will be held on January 23, 2011 at 9:30 a.m.** There will not be a separate mailing notice for this meeting, so mark your calendar now!



Decorating the Church December 19th

Please stay after the 10:45 a.m. worship that Sunday if you would like to help decorate the church for Christmas.



Sing on Christmas Eve

Help make the Chancel Choir bigger! You are invited to sing an anthem with the chancel choir at the 9 p.m. Christmas Eve Service during the Prelude. Rehearsals are Thursday nights in December from 7:30 – 7:50 p.m. or Wednesday or Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m. If these times don't work for you, Bruce will find another time to rehearse with you. See Bruce Tonkin if you are interested or contact him at: htonkin@stjamespottstown.org or 610-220-5457.

Preludes for Christmas Eve Services

Preludes for the 3 and 9 p.m. Christmas Eve Services will begin 20 minutes before the hour. Special music for flute, a soprano and tenor duet, a soprano solo and the Youth Choir will be featured. The Chancel Choir, with additional congregation members, will sing a *Jazz Gloria* with the conga drums, maracas and claves, and the beautiful *Candlelight Carol* by John Rutter.



Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion December 24, 2010 Worship at 3 and 9 p.m.

One worship service on Sunday,
December 26th
at 10 a.m.



We will be celebrating the birth of our Savior at the next Rejoicing Spirits worship on Wednesday, **December 8th at 7 p.m. with a Christmas concert by the Boy Scouts beginning at 6:45 p.m.** Fellowship time follows worship. This should be a special night for all. If you have not yet had the chance to worship with us, come and join us as we celebrate God's gift of Jesus coming to us. All are invited. All are welcomed.

Offerings for 2010



All offerings and contributions to be accounted for in 2010 will need to be in the office **by Monday, December 27, 2010 by 9 a.m.** Anything received after that will be accounted for in 2011.

Sunday Morning Adult Education Opportunities

Two adult education opportunities on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.

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 throughout the year.

Study with Pastor - Pastor's adult study class will continue its discussion and learning about other churches and denominations. All are invited and welcomed.



New Prayer List

With the beginning of Advent we have started a new prayer list. All names will stay on the list for four weeks unless indicated otherwise. Please contact Suzanne Rigg at 610-326-2810 or srigg@stjamespottstown.org to add someone to the prayer list or complete a communication card located in the pews during worship.

Third Sunday Offering

**December Recipient:
ELCA World Hunger**

ELCA World Hunger improves the lives of people in need in the United States and around the world by:

- providing immediate **relief** for people affected by chronic hunger and poverty
- assisting whole communities through long-term, sustainable **development** to help alleviate chronic hunger and poverty
- **advocating** for justice by changing laws and systems
- **educating** members of the ELCA in awareness of issues relating to hunger, poverty and justice

ELCA World Hunger works with a host of trusted partners, notably Lutheran World Relief and the Lutheran World Federation, and builds on long-term relationships to do this work efficiently and effectively. Funded entirely by gifts to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal, ELCA World Hunger operates with lean administration costs under ten percent.

All money raised by the World Hunger Appeal comes through specially designated offerings and donations from ELCA members, congregations, and friends. ELCA World Hunger receives no benevolence (general budget money from general ELCA member offerings).

Please prayerfully consider giving this month to support this very important ministry of our denomination.

DISCIPLESHIP and FELLOWSHIP and SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Reports Due

All year-end committee and other reports are due into the Church Office **by Sunday, January 2, 2011.**

Blood Pressure Checks

Second Sunday of the month

Stay well! Blood Pressure checks will be on **December 12th** after each service.

Blood Drive

December 13, 2010 is a time when you can unselfishly give to your neighbor when they are in dire need. You can donate part of yourself by giving blood between 2 - 7 p.m. when Miller Keystone will be at St. James. **To make an appointment** please contact Ellen Ibach at 610-323-4477.

Pottstown Lutheran Congregations Caroling at the Coventry Mall December 5, 2010 2- 4 p.m.

Join our fellow Lutherans of Pottstown at the Coventry Mall where we will be caroling to the holiday shoppers on **Sunday, December 5th from 2- 4 p.m. outside of the Kohl's store in the center of the mall.** We will have available to shoppers an invitation with a schedule of the Christmas and Christmas Eve worship times for all five congregation. All ages are invited to come out and sing as we let our community know of the Lutheran presence within their midst. Please contact Suzanne at srigg@stjamespottstown.org or 610-326-2810 if you plan to sing.



Salvation Army Bell Ringing

A St. James tradition continues as we once again help The Salvation Army with their bell ringing and kettle collection. St. James will be ringing the bell at the kettle collection located at the Boscov's entrance (closest to Sears) of the Coventry Mall on Saturday, December 18th from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please sign up in Horn Hall to volunteer a half hour to an hour of your time to help provide for the needs of others.



Christmas Angel Program

Thanks to everyone who took a tag for the Pottstown Salvation Army's annual Christmas Angel Program. **We accepted 50 gift tags and all the tags were taken!**

When you have finished purchasing your gift, please deliver it to the designated area of Horn Hall. All gifts should be **UNWRAPPED with the tag securely fastened and need to be at the church no later than the December 10.**

Relay for Life Advent Table

The Relay for Life Team is selling homemade cookies, shoofly pies, candy, jellies, pies, applesauce, pickled beets, ornaments, jewelry, dishcloths, dollar items and much more in Horn Hall during the season of Advent. On the 4th Sunday of Advent, **December 19th, they will also be selling homemade soup and yeast bread.** Help the fight against cancer by doing your Christmas shopping at the Advent Relay for Life Table.

News from the Pottstown Cluster

Some current needs for the food pantry:

Please see the article on the Holiday Food Baskets; and the **clothing closet and housewares**: Winter Jackets Boys and Girls sizes 0 to 2T, Winter Clothes Boys and Girls 2T, Adults clothing in full sizes (2X +), Children's PJs, Girls clothes size 3; Boys jeans size 7+, Boys underwear sizes 6—12, Girls underwear sizes 3—12, Silverware, Pots/Pans Good Shape, Pie and Baking

Egg carton donations are no longer needed.

Donations for the Cluster can be brought to St. James and placed in the basket by the lower level mailboxes, or donations can also be taken directly to the Cluster.

Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities

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

SPCA Benefit Concert Update

Lara Goins, youth member of Saint James, student cellist and harpist, with the help of her private strings teacher Janet Marquardt, will be holding a benefit performance for the Montgomery County SPCA at the Petco in the Upland Square shopping center on **Saturday December 4** from **11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

PLEASE NOTE CORRECTED TIME!

We will be collecting funds and items for the Montgomery County SPCA. We hope to see our friends from St. James at the concert! We also will have a smaller concert at the Royersford Public Library, on **December 18** from **10:30 a.m. to 11a.m.** If you would like to sponsor Lara's or Samantha's practice time to help raise funds for the SPCA, please call us at 610-326-1982 or email Lara at harpist08@verizon.net



Cluster Outreach Center Holiday Food Baskets

We are collecting items for the Holiday Food baskets that the Cluster assembles and gives to families in need. The Cluster is handling these donations differently this year. St. James is responsible for providing this year **238 cans of cream of mushroom soup and 200 boxes of instant mashed potatoes.** If you are interested in contributing to these baskets, please sign up in Horn Hall for the items that you will donate. **All donations should be brought to the church by December 12.** Please contact Suzanne if you have any questions about the food donations.

Women of the ELCA Upper Montgomery Conference

Bible Study

The WELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study will be held at St. James Lutheran Church, Pottstown, on **Tuesday, December 7th at 10 a.m. with coffee at 9:30.** The leader will be Barbara Thornton presenting *Gifts in Grace* (1 Corinthians 12:4-7).

The January Bible Study will be held at Manatawny Manor, Pottstown on January 4th. The leader will be Sister Jane Roper presenting *In Spirit and Truth* (John 4:23-24).

All women are invited to participate in these Bible Studies based on the theme *The People of God: Unity in the Midst of Diversity*. Study materials are found in Lutheran Women Today magazine. Subscriptions are available for \$12 per year. This is the 26th 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.

Talk to your parents before it's too late.

As you gather with your loved ones over the holidays it may be a good time to talk about care-giving and end-of-life issues. Caught in the middle, many baby boomers are raising their children and managing their careers, all while caring for their aging parents. Talking to your parents about care-giving and end-of-life issues is important.

Many people put it off because they are uncomfortable. Reduce the stress and start discussing the location of information, not the contents.

One tool that can help is a financial inventory. The inventory, which you should update on annually, includes:

- **Legal documents:** property deeds, wills, trusts, living wills and health care and financial directives, birth, marriage and military discharge certificates.
- **Contact information:** attorneys, accountants, financial planners, physicians and anyone who provides financial, legal and medical advice and care.
- **Current account information:** type, number and institution for all financial accounts, including: checking, savings, retirement, investment, loans and insurance policies.
- **Valuables and collectibles:** location and description of any valuables such as jewelry, silver or gold and collectibles such as stamps and coins.
- **Instructions:** funeral, burial and obituary information and instructions.

This process won't happen in a day. By breaking the information gathering into small, manageable conversations, you can help ensure your parent's wishes will be carried out.

For more guidance on talking with your parents, or other loved ones, contact John Ungerman, Senior Financial Consultant, at 610-970-4740 or john.ungerman@

Confused about Medicare?

Medicare open enrollment began on November 15th and continues through December 31, 2010. If you have questions or are looking for a second opinion join John Ungerman, Thrivent Financial Senior Financial Consultant, for a Medicare discussion at St. James on Thursday, December 2, at 10:30 a.m. or Tuesday, December 7, at 1:30 p.m. Sign Up Today! Call John Ungerman's office at 610-970-4740 or e-mail patricia.moser@thrivent.com.

Spaghetti Dinner Update

It is my pleasure to announce that we had another great Spaghetti Dinner on November 5th. Thank You, Thank You, Thank You, for all who attended, those who gave of their time to serve in the dining room and kitchen, and those who gave donations. We served 187 people and thru the matching funds from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans raised over \$2,000.00 to support the Work Mission Teams ongoing work.

David Renn was the winner of the 50/50 prize and donated money back to the Work Mission Team.

We are planning the next dinner for April 2011, so be on the lookout for more information early next year.

The 2011 Work Mission trip is being planned for the week of May 9th thru 14th.

Again thanks for your support.

Ted Baer - Work Mission Coordinator

MEMBER NEWS

December Birthdays



1 – Alyssa Stein, Justin Stine; 2 – Ken Garner, Betsy Jerdon; 3 – Derek Olock; 4 – Ronald Reynier; 5 – Garnet Nye Jr; 9 – Annmarie Binsfeld; 11 – Joyce Bilger; 12 – Greg Hutchinson, Bill Jackson; 13 – David Hartzman; 15 – Kyle Benedetto, Amy Lapreziosa, Lois Welsh; 16 – Stephanie French, Tim Horger, Rylin Tilling, Ronald Reynier, Jr.; 18 – Linda Neiman; 22 – Ashley Rose, Ty Bradley; 24 – John Richard, Robert Richard; 25 – Joe Ann Hillegass; 26 – Dottie Smith; 27 – Diane Mitchell, Gavin Wert; 28 – Sherry Clancy, Jessica Mitchell; 29 – Janis Lunn; 31 – Pat Baer

Baptisms

We welcome into God's family:
Charles Andrew Taylor, son of Melissa and Andrew Taylor.

Thank You Notes

Thanks to the many individuals who made our Reformation Sunday celebration a success. Special thanks to Chris Rothhaprt, Bruce Tonkin, the Chancel Choir, kitchen help and all the cooks who provided the wonderful food for our dinner.

Thanks again to all who helped with this fall's rummage sale. We made \$739.64 to help feed those who are hungry.

Thank you to Betty Hoffman, Vanessa Thompson and Merle Pace for folding and assembling the bulletins. Their help from week to week is very much appreciated.

Pastor and family of St. James,

Terry and I thank you for the warm welcome back; the fit seems right. And to all who prayed for my speedy recovery from knee surgery – I thank you so much!

Terry and Rita Arner

Vanessa Thompson thanks everyone for their cards and letters and prayers while she recuperates from surgery. She says that they have been a blessing and she is looking forward to coming back to worship with everyone as soon as possible.

Dear Pastor, Council, and Congregation:

I want to extend my warmest thanks to St. James for the generous \$500 contribution given to the Preeclampsia Foundation earlier this year.

Your donation directly impacts our ability to execute on our primary mission and supports novel research that seeks to better understand and eliminate the adverse, and sometimes deadly, effects that preeclampsia and HELLP syndrome have on mothers, and babies. In addition, our programs help to improve patient education practices that will be spread to diverse groups of expectant mothers, both in the US and abroad.

Thank you again for supporting such an important (and personal) cause.

Dawn Detweiler
Director of Local Fundraising
Preeclampsia Foundation
and
St. James Member

COUNCIL NOTES

TREASURER'S REPORT

	<u>OCT-10</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
-		
Income	\$18,779.50	\$225,422.46
Expenses	<u>22,082.39</u>	<u>247,338.24</u>
Net Income	(\$3,302.89)	(\$21,915.78)
<u>Regular Envelopes</u>		
Received	\$16,239.00	\$175,253.83
Needed*	<u>19,717.89</u>	<u>197,179.29</u>
Over (Under)	(\$3,478.89)	(\$21,925.46)
<u>Third Sunday Offering</u>		
Pottstown Cluster		Collected \$303.00
<u>Capital Campaign</u>		
	<u>Oct -2010</u>	<u>Total Campaign</u>
Income	\$5,763.00	\$483,622.25

*Amount required to balance the budget.

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: nannahsbmd@gmail.com

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

Dave Garner – Treasurer 610-970-7560
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Caleb Weaner 610-960-6705
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