

the Spirit of St. James



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

Worship

8 and 10:45 a.m.

One service only on December 27th

Coffee Fellowship

9 a.m.

Adult Education Classes

9:30 a.m.

No classes December 6th and 27th

Youth Choir Rehearsal

10 a.m.

No rehearsal on December 27th

Children's Church

10:45 a.m.

No Children's Church on December 27th

Holy Communion Weekly

See Christmas worship schedule on Page 4



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
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

Karen Orchard
e-mail: secretary@stjamespottstown.org
contact: 610-326-2810

Financial Administrator

Sherry Clancy
financeadmin@stjamespottstown.org
contact: 610-326-2810

Director of Music Ministries

Sharon MacCabe
email: sharonbmaccabe@comcast.net
contact: 610-326-2810

Custodian

Glenn Yerger
contact: 610-326-2810

Newsletter Editor

Dawn Detweiler
contact: newsletterstj@wi.rr.com

OFFICE NOTES

Newsletter Deadline for January 2010 Edition: December 15, 2009

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.

Altar Flowers, Eternal Light Bulletin Sponsorships

The cost of the sponsorships are: \$15 for eternal light; \$30 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.

Weather Cancellations



For cancellations or changes in the Sunday morning schedule due to inclement weather, please call the church for a message, listen to WPAZ radio (AM 1370), watch for an announcement on WFMZ Channel 69 or check their website at wfmz.com (look for St. James ELC).

PASTOR'S ARTICLE

As I write this, I have been home now for a week after going through rather extensive knee surgery. I have tried to remain diligent in my pastoral duties but appreciate your patience while I heal. But one thing that has helped make it all go better, are the cards and phone calls and even visits I have had from people who express their care and concern for me and wished me well.

As we enter the Season of Advent and prepare to once again celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, we enter into a time of some contemplation. While it's easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle and materialism of Christmas, the four weeks of Advent are there to help us ponder, if only now and then, the wonder and marvel and goodness of what the Nativity of our Lord really means.

What it means, maybe more than anything else, is that God cares enough about us, about his humanity, to come be with us. To not only visit with us, but also express his concern, his good wishes, yes, his love for humanity, by sending us Jesus. And as with a phone call or 'get-well' card, through Jesus he inevitably sends himself to help us get and be well once again. Through the promise of forgiveness, by the constant presence of his Spirit, and in the salvation through Christ's work on the cross, the Father intends to make us well within our souls.

I know that we are encouraged to try to be tolerant of all religious beliefs and more often than not that can be a good thing. But it cannot be denied that no other faith or religious practice but Christianity teaches and believes that God cared so much about his world as to actually come and be with his sick and hurting people, by and through the birth and person of Jesus the Christ.

So as the day and Season of Christmas draws near, please ponder that very important message, even if you only do so now and then. And when you wish anyone a "Merry Christmas" remember that you are not just wishing them good cheer and to be happy. Think of it also as a way of saying to them that the God of us all, in sending Jesus to earth, wishes and brings them healing and wellness.

Merry Christmas and peace be with you.

PASTOR



WORSHIP NOTES

Christmas Caroling December 20th



On December 20th we will be Christmas caroling to our homebound members from 2-3:30 p.m. followed by hot chocolate, cookies and fellowship at the church. Please sign up in Horn Hall if you would like to participate.



Decorating the Church December 20th

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

Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion December 24, 2009

Worship at 3 and 9 p.m.
One worship service on Sunday,
December 27th
at 10 a.m.



We will be celebrating the birth of our Savior at the next Rejoicing Spirits worship on Wednesday, **December 9 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 2009

All offerings and contributions to be accounted for in 2009 will need to be in the office by Sunday, December 27, 2009. Anything received after that will be accounted for in 2010.

We Want to Pray for You

We started the weekly Guide to Daily Prayer on May 2, 2004. On the guide we pray for individuals on their birthdays, as well as on their baptism, confirmation, and wedding anniversaries. Much of this information is on record in the office, but some of it is not and it has been over five years since we have tried to collect any new information. To help update our office records and our records for our Guide to Daily Prayer, we ask that you take a minute to complete the enclosed form found in this newsletter and place it in the offering plate or return it to the church office. Thank you for your assistance in helping us pray for you and your family.

Annual Meeting – Part 1

Please plan to attend part one of the annual meeting **between services on Sunday, December 6 at 9:30 a.m.** The agenda includes **the election of Council members and the adoption of the 2010 budget.** There will be no adult Sunday School classes this day. There will not be a separate mailing notice for this meeting, so mark your calendar now! **Part 2 of the annual meeting will be held on January 24, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.**

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.

Sunday Morning Adult Education Opportunities

*These classes meeting in the
Blue Room at 9:30 a.m.*

Advent Conspiracy December 13 & 20

Tired of the consumerism that has come to define Christmas? Advent Conspiracy invites us learn how to restore the scandal of Christmas by substituting compassion for consumption. Through this engaging, four-session DVD curriculum Advent Conspiracy will show us how we can substitute compassion for consumption by practicing four simple but powerful, countercultural concepts: Worship Fully—because Christmas begins and ends with Jesus! Spend Less—and free up resources for things that truly matter. Give More—presence: helping hands, healing words, humble hearts. Love All—the poor, the forgotten, the marginalized, the sick, in ways that make a difference.

*This class meets weekly in the Adult Study
Class 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. This class meets weekly.

DISCIPLESHIP and FELLOWSHIP and SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Reports Due

All year-end committee and other reports are due into the Church Office **by Sunday, January 3, 2010.**

Blood Pressure Checks *Second Sunday of the month*

Stay well! Blood Pressure checks will be on **December 13th** after each service.



Blood Drive

January 11, 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.

Salvation Army Community Lunch **December 9, 2009**

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.

Keep Missing the St James TV Commercial?



If you have not been able to catch the St. James television commercial on the Food Network or ABC Family, then we have good news for you. You can now view it on our website. Just go to www.stjamespottstown.org and you will find a link on our home page. Just click on *View the St James TV Spot* located under the stained glass window of Jesus.

Women of the ELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study

The next WELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study will be held at Manatawny Manor, Pottstown, on **Tuesday, December 1, 2009, at 10 a.m. with coffee at 9:30.** The leader will be Sr. Jane Roper presenting *Moved to a New Address*. If Manatawny Manor is under quarantine, then the bible study will be relocated to St. James. **The women of St. James are responsible for the refreshments regardless of the location.**

The January Bible Study will be held at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Pottstown, on **Tuesday, January 5, 2010**, with Barbara Lisi presenting *Nothing Can Separate Us*.

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.

Cluster Outreach Center Holiday Food Baskets

Items are still being collected for the Holiday Food baskets that the Cluster assembles and gives to families in need. **Below are the items being collected for the baskets:**

Boxed mashed potatoes, canned turkey gravy, boxed stuffing mix, canned corn, canned green beans, canned sweet potatoes/yams, brown sugar, little marshmallows, mushroom soup, cranberry sauce, coffee, tea, and hot chocolate.

If you would like to donate any of these items, **please place them in the specially marked Holiday Food basket in Horn Hall by December 6.**

The Cluster is also wishing for gift cards from Redners to purchase perishables such as milk, eggs, butter or turkeys. If you would like to **donate any cards, please give your donation to Suzanne Rigg by December 6.**

Other food items for the Cluster can be placed in the basket located **by the lower level mailboxes found at the bottom of the stairs** closest to the parking lot.



SCRIP and Holiday Plans

It's time to plan now and avoid the last minute shopping "crunch" in the retail world. Purchase scrip and help provide others who are less fortunate the opportunity to eat well.

After December 13th we won't be able to promise to secure any new certificates so **PLEASE** plan ahead. When our stock is depleted, it may be too late to re-order the gifts. Thank you for your support during the past year!

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 12th from 9 a.m. to 6 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 have 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 6th of December.**

Youth Concert December 19, 2009 2- 4 p.m.



to benefit the Montgomery County SPCA

Come hear gifted young musicians play (including St. James' own Lara Goins) at the new PETCO at the Upland Square Shopping Center, Route 100, Pottstown. At the concert the youth will be collecting money and supplies including blankets, towels, laundry detergent, canned cat food and dry pet food for cats, dogs, rabbits, guinea pigs, and small plastic litter boxes (sized between 8" x10" and 10" x 12").

St. James Relay for Life Nut Roll Sale Fundraiser



Delicious nut rolls, made locally by Nancy Chrisman, are on sale now for Christmas with a delivery of December 20th at a cost of \$11. **Last day to order is December 13.** For more information or to place an order, please see Olga Christman. **All orders must be pre-paid.**

Spaghetti Dinner Update

The Work Mission Team wishes to thank all those who made our latest Spaghetti Dinner on November 6th a great success. We served over 200 people large and small. A big thank you goes out to all who helped in selling tickets, preparing the food, serving and clean up. It takes a team effort to pull this off. The 50/50 ticket was won by member Debbie Fisher.

Put **April 16, 2010 on your calendar for the next Spaghetti Dinner.**

Anyone interested in finding out more about the Work Missions and our next trip should see Ted Baer or any member of this year's team, as we would like to talk you into going along in 2010.

Thank You Note

Thanks to the many individuals who made our Reformation Sunday celebration a success. Special thanks to the choirs, kitchen help and all the cooks who provided the wonderful food for our dinner.

News from the Pottstown Cluster

Current needs for the food pantry include:

sizes 4-6 diapers, baby wipes, baby oil, baby rash cream, baby shampoo, jelly, laundry and dish detergent, all purpose cleaner, shampoo, Ensure and unopened diabetic test strips;

and for the clothing closet:

ladies' socks, ladies' underwear (sizes 7-9), kids' socks, kids' winter pajamas/sleepers, boys' jeans (7-18), babies' winter jackets (newborn – 2T), girls' tops (24mo – 2T) and underwear for adults and children, blankets, towels, washcloths, sheets (full size) and kitchenware.

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

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 – Amy Lapreziosa, Lois Welsh; 16 – Tim Horger, 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



Deepest Sympathies

To Bob Ibach upon the death of his mother, Sarah.

To the family and friends of Alice Schindler.

To the family and friends of Robert Wien.

To the family and friends of Mary Arnt.

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

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

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

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

Ron Schafer 610-326-4814
Email: ronslibrary@comcast.net

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

Julie Hauck 610-385-7308
Email: jlynne65@ptd.net

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

Laurie O'Connell 610-323-5787
Email: rloconnelljr@concast.net

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

Candy Koons 610-327-0458
Email: itp494@aol.com

Carol Keller 610-326-1013
Email: mycourt33@comcast.net

TREASURER'S REPORT			
	<u>Sep-09</u>	<u>Oct-09</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$ 19,851.10	\$ 24,573.31	\$ 229,361.44
Expenses	<u>21,112.39</u>	<u>20,402.16</u>	<u>239,986.09</u>
Net Income	(\$1,261.29)	\$4,171.15	(\$10,624.65)
<i><u>Regular Envelopes</u></i>			
Received	\$17,224.73	\$21,430.00	\$184,897.38
Needed*	<u>19,739.69</u>	<u>19,739.69</u>	<u>197,397.26</u>
Over (Under)	(\$2,514.96)	\$1,690.31	(\$12,499.88)
<i><u>Third Sunday Offering</u></i>			
	Lutheran World Relief	Pottstown Cluster	
Collected	\$224.00	\$348.50	
<i><u>Capital Campaign</u></i>			
	<u>Sep-2009</u>	<u>Oct-2009</u>	<u>Total Campaign</u>
Income	\$8,838.01	\$14,549.00	\$398,309.75

*Amount required to balance the budget.