

the Spirit of St. James



St. James Lutheran Church, 1101 High Street, Pottstown, Pennsylvania, 19464 • (610) 326-2810 • FEBRUARY 2011

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

Love...it's everywhere. What I mean is that we seem to be obsessed with the idea of 'love'; *romantic love* that is.

As I write this, there is a song on the radio about 'love' (which it seems many, if not most songs, are about). Our culture that is reflected in TV and movies, books, and today on the internet, all regularly emphasize to us the supposed importance of this idea of 'love' in the modern and romantic sense.

This month, we even have a day that accentuates this kind of 'love'. Valentine's Day is when people 'in love' show their affection and adoration towards each other. *“What are you and your sweetheart doing for Valentines Day?”* is the question many will ask or hear around that day.

But the answer for many will be that there is no special person, no sweetheart, no 'love of my life'. Despite society's fixation on the idea, many just do not have someone with whom to share that kind of love and emotion. It may be that they are in less than fully loving relationships or marriages. It may be that their sweetheart has died and is no longer able to share that kind of love with them. Or it may be that we just don't have someone to fill that role that we are told is so crucial for us.

Well, did you know that Valentine's Day was originally a Christian holiday? It was named after several martyrs whose love for God in Christ was so deep that they were willing to die instead of denying their love. And while it has long since ceased being a celebrated religious day, maybe we are wise to not forget ***that kind of love.***

Because that's the kind of **love** that God has for us. A love that is not conditional on us making God happy or even being faithful all the time. It's a love that is constantly being nurtured by this little thing called 'forgiveness' (something that is so elusive in romantic love). In fact, this love that comes from God is often very much unlike the romantic love that we think and are told is so vital to our lives. The truth is, the love that God has for us, and that we can return to him, can even be more powerful and persistent than any romantic love we might hope to find.

So on February 14, if you are one of those who have a darling one with whom to share 'romantic love'; good for you. I hope that your relationship comes close to having the **love** that God shares with us in Jesus Christ. But if you are feeling lonely or have no one in particular to 'love' on that day, know that there is someone who does love you, and loves you to death!

PASTOR



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship

8 and 10:45 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship

9 a.m.

Adult Education Classes

9:30 a.m.

Youth Choir Rehearsal

9 a.m.

Children's Choir Rehearsal

10 a.m.

Children's Church

10:45 a.m.

Holy Communion Weekly



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
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Director of Discipleship

Suzanne Rigg, Diaconal Minister
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Office Administrator

Pat Baer
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Director of Music Ministries

Bruce W. Tonkin, A.I.M.
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Financial Administrator

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

Custodian

Glenn Yerger
contact: 610-326-2810

Volunteer Newsletter Editor

Dawn Detweiler

OFFICE NOTES

**Newsletter Deadline for March 2011 Edition:
February 15, 2011**

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 Secretary 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 plate or turned in to the office. Sign-up sheets are posted in Horn Hall for anyone interested. You must re-sign up for 2011 as no one is automatically reserved a date from the previous year.

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



Wednesday, February 9 at 7 p.m.

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. **All are welcome!**

Next month Rejoicing Spirits will be on **March 2nd**, the first Wednesday of the month due to Ash Wednesday being on the second Wednesday.

Please Consider Joining the Lenten Hospitality Team

Do you like making people feel at home? Or are you someone who likes to help behind the scene? If so, please consider joining the Lenten Hospitality Team.

This team will be responsible for the set up and clean-up of our Lenten Soup Suppers. No special skills are required except for a willingness to help. If you are interested in serving on this team please sign up in Horn Hall or contact Suzanne at 610-326-2810 or srigg@stjamespottstown.org.

Simply Giving Update

Thanks to all who have recently signed up for Simply Giving as an easy way to give their offering to the church. This helps the church but also helps you in realizing a dedicated practice and commitment of good stewardship to further God's work in the world. If you would like to know more about Simply Giving, look for the display table in the social hall or see Dave Garner, Sherry Clancy, or Pastor.



Ash
Wednesday

The season of Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, March 9th**

For the Christian Church Lent is a penitential season and Ash Wednesday is our 'day of atonement' on which we most deliberately reflect upon our own sinfulness and our need for forgiveness, which we receive through Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

Two worship services will be held on March 9th

Early afternoon worship – 2 p.m.
Evening worship – 7 p.m.
Holy Communion at both services.

As part of those services, we will offer the long held Christian tradition of **imposition of ashes**. Worshipers come forward to receive the ashes, and the words of our own mortality will be spoken by the pastor.

Worship continues on Wednesday nights throughout the season of Lent

Soup Supper at 6 p.m.
and
Worship at 7 p.m.





Exploring Faith in Life

Join Pastor in taking a look at the Book of Hebrews. "Hebrews! What's in that?" you ask. Well most of us can't really say or quote much of it, but there is a whole lot of what Christianity is all about in there. It's almost an outline of all that our faith teaches about how we come to know God in Christ. It would be a good crash course for anyone who wants to know (in five short sessions), what it is that we believe.

No prior bible knowledge is necessary and the session should be fun and informative. We meet on **Tuesday nights, from 7 – 8 p.m.** in the classroom school room next to the office, and **Thursday mornings from 10 – 11 a.m.** at the Sanatoga Retirement Village Community Room (with coffee and doughnuts!) We will meet until the season of Lent begins.

So come and learn and help us explore faith and what it means in our daily lives!

Sunday Morning Adult Education Opportunities

There are two adult education classes on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.

Seasons of the Spirit - 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 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 leads an adult study class covering a variety of topics. All are invited and welcomed to come join the discussion and learning.

Third Sunday Offering

February Recipient:



Lutheran World Relief

Empowered by God's unconditional love in Jesus Christ, Lutheran World Relief envisions a world in which each person and every generation lives in justice, dignity, and peace. They also come to the aid of areas across the world affected by natural disasters, such as Haiti, Columbia, and Pakistan.

Every day in 50 countries, **Lutheran World Relief (LWR) works to combat the causes of poverty** and the dignity it robs from people's lives. They advocate for fair trade that helps farming families earn a better income. (Our Fair Trade Coffee and Eco-Palms programs at St. James are through LWR). **They teach people to better care for themselves their communities and the environment** and how to be less vulnerable to natural disasters. Their partners help them remain incredibly efficient and effective.

LWR values the contribution of Lutheran theology to their understanding of faith active in love and cherishes their Lutheran heritage and identity. LWR acts on behalf of U.S. Lutherans, the ELCA, and the LCMS as a common expression of their faith through international relief and development.

2011 Third Sunday Offering Schedule

March – Cluster Outreach Center

April – Wounded Warrior

Invitation

The people of Augustus Lutheran Church invite you to attend the Installation of the Rev. G. Warren Weleck as their Senior Pastor by Bishop Claire S. Burkat of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod on Sunday, February 6, 2011 at 3 p.m. The Rev. Herbert H. Michel, D.D., pastor emeritus, will preach. A light reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

DISCIPLESHIP and FELLOWSHIP and SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Music Notes



The **Children's Choir** has been rehearsing. Please have your child (age 3 1/2 thru Grade 4) come join us! We want your child to learn songs about God, Jesus and the church. We also teach them how to use their voices properly and introduce them to music reading with games and fun songs.

Rehearsals are every Sunday from 10 to 10:25 in the big room near the stage. We plan to sing about once a month in the Worship Service.

Youth Choir has also been rehearsing. Grades 5 – 12 can come join us and lend a voice to help praise God as you sing in the Worship Services each month.

Instrumentalists are also needed!

Please contact Mr. Tonkin at btonkin@stjamespottstown.org or 610-326-2810 or on a Sunday morning

Please take note that many of the **ORGAN PRELUDES** before the Service are based on hymn tunes. Each hymn has a "tune name" that can be found in the bottom right hand corner of each hymn. The bottom left tells you the composer of the words and the music. See which verse is best represented in the style of the prelude that Sunday.

Thanks to the congregation for learning the new Alleluia and Gospel Acclamation!

Volunteers Needed

Volunteer(s) needed to help in flower shop training program for non-profit mental health group. Experience in florals required along with the ability to work in a training capacity. Flexible hours. Contact Chris or Marita at 610-326-9112 for more information.

Blood Pressure Checks

Second Sunday of the month

Stay well! Blood pressure checks will be on **February 13th** after each service.

Relay for Life Update

Anyone who has jars from purchasing applesauce, soups or redbeets may return them to the kitchen so they can be used again. Thank you.

News from the Pottstown Cluster

Current needs for the food pantry include:

Canned Beef Stew, Oatmeal, Jelly, Canned Vegetables, Canned Fruit, Diapers size 4,5,6, Baby Wipes, Toilet paper, Paper towels, Cleaning Supplies, Laundry detergent, Dish liquid, Bar soap, Tooth Paste, Deodorant

and for the clothing closet:

The Cluster is not accepting clothing except for: Winter Coats, Winter Hats. Winter Boots, Blankets, Linens, Towels, Scarves

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

WELCA News

Mark your calendars

The Spring Rummage Sale is May 2nd and 3rd. Please bring your items to the church on Sunday, May 1.

Upcoming WELCA Meetings

No meeting in February
March 21 – 7 p.m.
April 13 – Lenten Soup Supper
May 16 – 7 p.m.
June 20 – Potluck at 6:15 p.m.



Women of the ELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study

The WELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study will be held at **Augustus Lutheran Church, Trappe on Tuesday, February 1st** at 10 a.m. with coffee at 9:30. The leader will be Janet Luyben presenting *Race and Culture (Acts 10:34-35)*.

The March Bible Study will be held on **March 1st at St. John's Lutheran Church at Sumneytown**. The leader will be presenting *Loving Relationships (Matt. 22:36-39)*.

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.

Thank You Notes

Thank you to Larry Wert for helping to undo the blockage in our drainage pipes and ending the leaking we were experiencing. Thanks to Bruce Tonkin for helping with the clean up.

Dear People of St. James.
We want to thank you for your participation in The Salvation Army of Greater Pottstown Angel Tree program this year. The effort, generosity and kindness if folks like you help to make this program possible.

*In His Service,
Major Mary Francis*

Members of St. James and WELCA,
Thank you for the beautiful card and good wishes. It was nice to have Pastor Hutchinson visit with me and give communion. Hoping everyone has a Happy, Healthy New Year. God bless one and all.

*Sincerely,
Eleanor Hetrick*

Dear St. James,
I want to thank pastor for all his visits and everyone for all the cards and prayers.

Helen Ziegler

Dear Friends in Christ,
On behalf of President Krey, students, faculty and staff, we thank you for your gift to the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. It is through gifts like yours that God's will to send out disciples to preach, teach, serve, and lead is fulfilled.

*Your servant in Christ,
The Rev. Ellen Anderson
Director, Alumni and Church Relations*

MEMBER NEWS

Meet Our New Members



Dawn Sheffey was born and grew up in Pottstown. She is a graduate of St. Pius High School. She has two adult daughters: Denise and Jennifer. Dawn works as the manager and aide of the computer lab at Franklin Elementary School. She likes to spend time with her daughters and granddaughter and enjoys reading and shopping. She comes to us from Augustus Lutheran Church, Trappe.

Valerie Sheffey was born in Reading and grew up in Birdsboro. She is a graduate of Twin Valley High School. She works in sales support for PQ Corporation, a chemical company. For recreation and fun Valerie enjoys reading, decorating and experimenting in the kitchen.

Andrew (Drew) and Melissa Taylor both were born in Pennsylvania and have lived in Pittsburgh. Andrew grew up in Elimsport, PA and is a graduate of Montgomery Area High School, Mansfield University, and Ohio Northern University College of Law. He is an attorney at Weber Gallagher in Norristown and dedicates 100 percent of his practice to family law. Melissa grew up in Sligo, PA and is a graduate of Keystone High School and Point Park University. She is an in-home therapist for autistic children working for Kepley Behavior Consulting. Drew and Melissa are the proud parents of Charles (Charlie). They both enjoy reading, camping, and spending time with their family.

Hans and Peggy Thomsen have lived all around the United States prior to coming to Pottstown. Hans was born in Michigan and Peggy in Washington and between the two of them, they have lived in Wisconsin, Arizona, Wyoming, Colorado, Alabama, and Kentucky. They come to us from House of Prayer Lutheran Church and Holy Apostles Anglican Church. Hans worked for the Boeing Company for 39 years and has done private consulting for 4 years. He enjoys puttering and traveling. Peggy also worked for Boeing Company as well as the Business Management Computer Science Corp and CAPRI. She likes walking, cooking, doing needlework, refinishing furniture and antiquing.

Bruce and Marcia Tonkin return to St. James coming to us from New Hanover Lutheran Church. Bruce was born and grew up in Carbondale, PA and is a graduate of Carbondale High School, Mansfield University and West Chester University. He is a retired music teacher having taught elementary students for 13 years and high school students for 10 years in the Norristown School District. Bruce is currently our Director of Music Ministries. Marcia was born and grew up in Boyertown and is a graduate of Boyertown High School and Kutztown University. She is retired after working for 30 years teaching visually impaired children as an itinerant teacher for Montgomery County Intermediate Unit. Currently she is an educational consultant with Discovery Toys and works on designing and constructing quilted bags. Bruce and Marcia have a daughter, Susan, who is married and lives in Marlton, NJ. Together they enjoy biking, tennis, kayaking. In addition, Bruce likes to ski and Marcia enjoys sewing, crafts and going to the beach.

BIRTHDAYS and COUNCIL NOTES

February Birthdays

1-Caleb Weaner; 2 – Heather Levan;
 3 – George Davis, Karen Hall, Kay Kalbach,
 Justin Strichik; 5 – Jaclyn Bealer, Shirley
 Reidnauer; 6 – Jim Geiger; 7 – Hans
 Thomsen; 9 – Chipper Meadowcroft;
 10 – Lani Goins, Marian Rex, Lee Weil;
 11 – Nancy Clements; 13 – Marge Fegley;
 14 – Maggie Rothenberger, Emily Rose;
 15 – Alexis Yashin; 18 – Kimberly Mittura;
 19 – Dana Clancy, Debbie Fisher, Bret
 Neiman; 20 – Nicole Bealer, Brett Hoffman;
 21 – Lyni Clements; Betty Johnson; 22 – Alicia
 Matrone; 23 – Rob O’Connell; 25-Virginia
 Reber, Dave Brewer; 26 - Don Detweiler,
 Andrew O’Connell, Nelda Reynier; 28 – Page
 Faith; Fay Saylor, Kevin Eshbach; 29 – Emily
 Jerdon, Wendy Cocci

TREASURER'S REPORT

	<u>Dec-10</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
-		-
Income	\$45,969.08	\$280,760.27
Expenses	<u>35,769.13</u>	<u>280,744.60</u>
Net Income	\$10,199.95	\$15.67
<u>Regular Envelopes</u>		
Received	\$23,009.50	\$214,121.25
Needed*	<u>19,717.89</u>	<u>\$236,615.08</u>
Over (Under)	\$3,291.61	\$ (22,493.83)
<u>Third Sunday Offering</u>		
ELCA World Hunger		
Collected	\$457.00	
<u>Capital Campaign</u>		
	<u>Dec-2010</u>	<u>Total Campaign</u>
Income	\$10,757.00	\$500,415.25

*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.

Cyndi Krasley (President) 484-945-0165
 Email: nannahsbmd@gmail.com

Caleb Weaner (Vice-President) 610-960-6705
 Email: calebweaner@hotmail.com

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

Dave Garner (Treasurer) 610-970-7560
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